

Lilley promises to give all pensioners more to beat cold

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley yesterday promised to compensate all pensioners for higher heating bills during spells of extremely cold weather.

In the wake of Baroness Thatcher's criticism of VAT on fuel, and in a significant concession to the anti-VAT campaign, the social security secretary disclosed plans for a relief scheme to be announced in late November, made up of extra cold weather payments for pensioners and families living on benefit.

Although Mr Lilley and other ministers had promised generous uprating of benefits this autumn to compensate for higher fuel bills, they had previously rejected extending extra help to all pensioners.

At present, special cold weather payments are paid automatically with pensions and benefits when the Meteorological Office predicts particularly low temperatures in any area. The present level of cold weather payment is £6 for a seven-day period.

As Lady Thatcher's disapproval of VAT on fuel revived the dispute, Mr Lilley said: "We have an overriding priority to get the nation's finances right and that is something Lady Thatcher has emphasised, and I strongly agree with her."

"I do not like putting VAT on fuel. We have, nevertheless, to get some revenue. If we do not get this revenue here [from VAT on fuel], we would have to get the money from somewhere else."

However, speaking on BBC Radio 2's *Jimmy Young* programme, the social security secretary echoed Lady Thatcher's arguments against tax increases in November's Budget. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has refused to rule out an increase in income tax to help to cut the public deficit.

Mr Lilley also hinted that local authorities will be asked to tighten the rules to discourage single women from jumping the housing queue by becoming pregnant. He said that there was a danger of discriminating against those who marry first and wait until they have a home before starting a family.

He disclosed that, as well as making it tougher to claim invalidity benefit, those already receiving the benefit could have it withdrawn when their case came up for reassessment.

He said he was also considering stopping invalidity benefit being paid to pensioners. At present some pensioners can claim both the benefit and their pension for five years.

Lady Thatcher had revived the debate over the government's economic strategy on Monday night by telling a private meeting of 300 Conservatives in Southend, Essex: "Taxes shouldn't go up. We should work within our income. People will accept cuts in spending. They will not like it at first, but they will eventually realise it is the only way."

She warned Mr Clarke: "Conscientious finance ministers must live within their income."

Mr Lilley appeared to side with the former prime minister by replying: "What we certainly do not want to do is to discourage effort and tax success because they are part of the incentives that create the wealth that enable you ultimately to fund the welfare state."

He added: "One of our successes has been that we have got down our levels of tax from punitive to more reasonable levels and that has encouraged greater enterprise, initiative and investment and we want to keep that."

Tory snipers, page 15
LoD warning, page 25

BCCI man jailed for £500m fraud

By ANGELA MACKAY

A FORMER senior official at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International was jailed for six years yesterday for his role as one of the chief architects of a multi-million-dollar fraud that led to the bank's collapse in 1991.

Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, 49, also faces charges in America and Abu Dhabi relating to BCCI and money laundering. He is likely to be rearrested on his release and extradited to Florida where he will be tried for allegedly laundering \$25 million stolen from Panama by General Noriega.

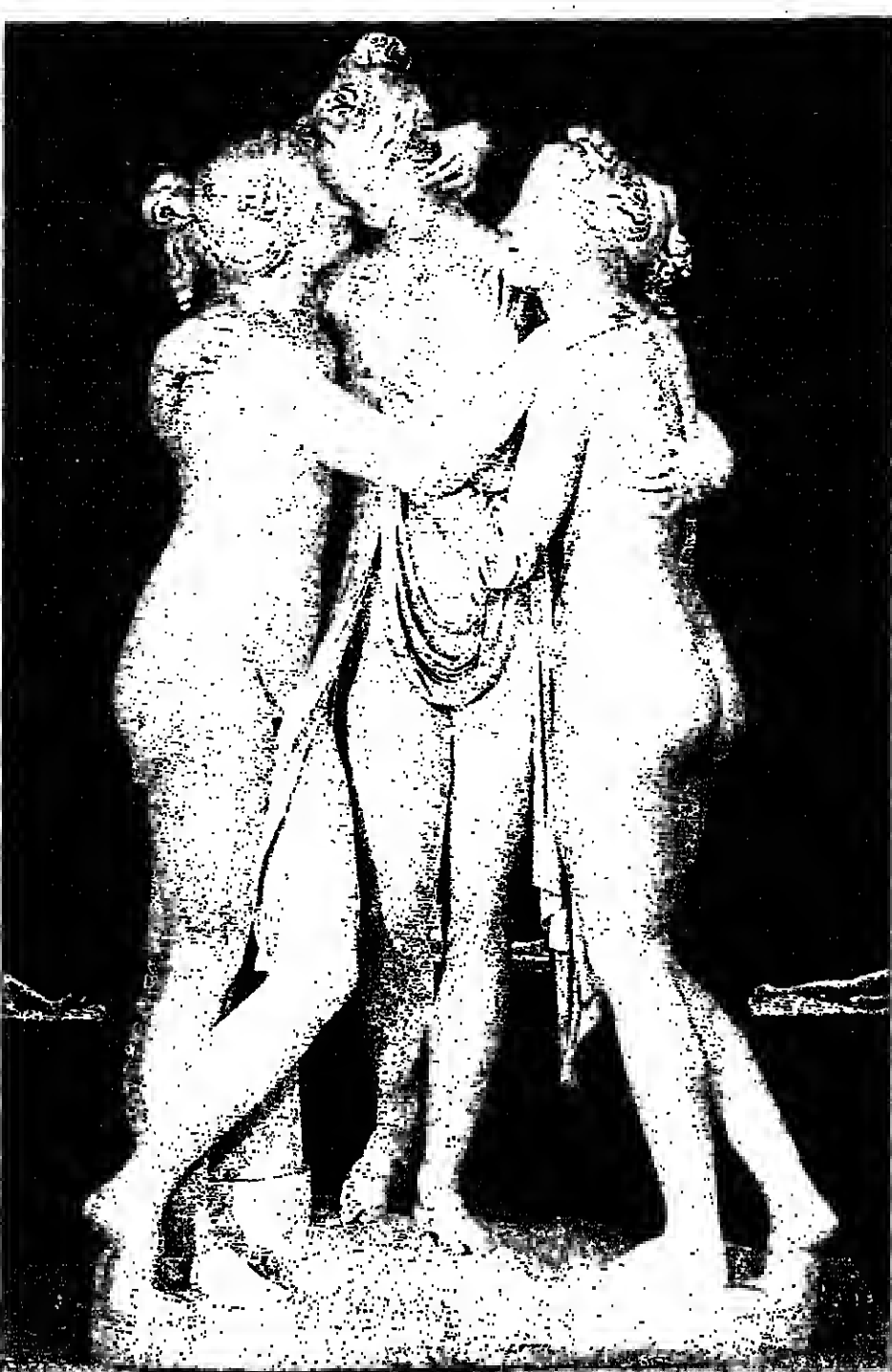
Akbar is likely to serve 12 to 18 months in an open prison after spending more than two years in custody before his conviction. Mr Justice Scott Baker told Akbar, head of BCCI's treasury division in London, that those who pleaded guilty in trials involving enormous expense "could expect considerable discount in sentence".

Had Akbar not admitted 16 charges of false accounting, involving about £500 million, he could have expected 10 to 11 years.

Although the prosecution had calculated that the bank's treasury division misused \$1,242 million (£828 million), "you are certainly not responsible for the whole of BCCI's losses", the judge told Akbar.

Before Akbar's case — the biggest fraud to come before a British court — could be heard, he had to be extradited from France. Akbar was estimated to have gained or misused £61 million dollars, mostly to set up a commodities trading company. No money has been recovered but there was no evidence of money salted away.

The judge ruled that there was no evidence of assets to make even a limited compensation order. Akbar's wife and children now live in council housing after their home was repossessed.



The Three Graces by Antonio Canova, which is destined for California

Race to save statue for nation

By HELEN NOWICKA AND JOHN SHAW

THE announcement of the sale of *The Three Graces* to the J Paul Getty Museum in California will galvanise the heritage lobby into trying to match the purchase price and keep the Canova statue in Britain.

But the chances of raising £7.6 million before an export licence is granted, usually after six months, look slim. The total purchase grant for all British museums and galleries is £13 million.

Public appeals have been launched in the past but there were some doubts last night in the art world whether that tactic would work again in the present recession.

Sir Denis Mahon, the art historian and a former trustee of the National Gallery, said in Italy that if a public appeal were launched the government should give a lead and let others follow. "It is a marvellous statue and its home is here."

Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, said Canova had strong art-historical links with 18th-century Scotland but his work was not represented in public Scottish collections. It would be marvellous for the statue to come to Scotland, "but it is going to be tough to match the purchase price in the short term allowed under an export licence. It is a lot of money and most museums have spent their purchase grant by this time of year."

The 174-year-old sculpture was housed in a specially "constructed" building at Woburn Abbey from 1819 to 1985, when it was sold.

Smith gets tipsy on tipples of applause

Applause interrupted John Smith 73 times during his speech — twice more than Mrs Thatcher's 71 at her last conference before she was toppled. Mr Smith's applause came regularly, almost rhythmically, and only loosely related to what he said. Waves lasted about nine seconds, occurring at natural pauses which both speaker and audience seemed to anticipate. Synchronising together they produced a concerto for speaker and handclapping.

The speech's content being (like the applause) ritual, it was hard to say whether the clapping was there as backing for the speech, or whether Smith's voice was to provide background for a virtuoso performance upon the human hand. A Martian might have seen the speech as responding in, rather than stimulating, the handclapping. So might we.

The applause was mostly gentle, with the rhythm and sound of waves washing on a Caribbean beach. Every three minutes a swishing sound would swell and die from above: not the breeze in the palms, but journalists in the gallery, turning a page in their texts.

The speech itself struck me as accomplished, well-turned, old-fashioned and rather short of ideas.

The banner across the backdrop said "Building For the Future" and both orator and handclappers wanted to be constructive. Smith raised the banner repeatedly for Labour plans and Labour values. But as often as he tried to explain these, and his audience to applaud, both seemed to lose heart and scamper back for the security of the familiar: the attack on the present government.

This attack was well-framed and legitimate, no doubt. Mr Smith excels at nothing quite so much as an adonoidal frenzy of moral indignation. "The Scottish adonoids add to the authenticity and give the performance a fine Presbyterian drone, a jechal upon the oboe of righteousness. But for one who claims to be brimming with positive plans and expecting the chance to implement them, there was rather a lot of it. Time and again — just when we thought we had dispatched the Tories and would now move on to Labour's ideas — Smith and his handclapping chorus would turn back on to the rearwards attack, leaving his own thoughts half-formed, hanging in mid-air."

Thus he started with tributes to Israeli PLO reconciliation — then rushed to condemn our failure to "act more decisively" in Bosnia. Remembering the need to be constructive, he sustained Labour's hopes for the UN for nine paragraphs. But failed. "Fourteen years of waste, years of neglect, years of decline" beckoned from his text. 39 paragraphs of scorn for the Tories followed.

Then, he said: "Today I offer British people a better way and a clear choice." Hopes lifted... and were dashed. Back lurched the Labour leader and his handclappers to another condemnation of Major's Britain. Like an alcoholic to his bottle, a short period of abstinence found him reaching again for that old, comforting poison. He took another swig. Six paragraphs. Then, emboldened with Dutch courage, he dared to begin a description of "our strategy that looks to the future".

Alas! After two paragraphs Mr Smith's nose was back in the well-matured tipples — the shocking salaries of top directors — handclapped all the way. Moving from the chairman of East Midlands Electricity to the plight of nurses, he drank deep.

I counted 12 desperate lunges for the stiff whisky of political insult. Twelve doses in an hour is a lot. No wonder, then, when Mr Smith, wound up, grasped the lectern and, grasping the lectern, in our common purpose, it is time to lead our country forward to the great tasks that lie ahead."

Hic.

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Disgraced MP quits front bench

Continued from page 1

drunk and disorderly and ordered to pay £250 costs. He had admitted the offences. Ronald Bartle, the magistrate, said assaults on police would normally mean jail terms.

Mr Bartle said: "I would not consider a custodial sentence but I cannot possibly deal with an offence of this gravity by means of a conditional discharge. This was a disgraceful episode for a man of your prominent position."

The Bow Street court had heard that Foulkes had been on his way to a three-line whip vote on the education bill at the House of Commons after attending a Scotch Whisky Association reception on July 19 when the incident occurred.

Leaving court Foulkes said: "I resigned as defence spokesman and John Smith has accepted it. I felt I had to take that course of action as it was the honourable thing to do." He said it was not for him to decide whether he would ever return to the front benches.

Mr Smith, the Labour leader, said yesterday: "I have accepted his resignation with great regret... He is certain to play an important role for the party on the back benches."

TV leads to arrest of detective

Continued from page 1

heart of two key units set up in recent years to concentrate on the top level of criminals. Shaken by the allegations, one senior detective said yesterday: "We have stepped back 25 years. We have been educating villains that we cannot be bought and suddenly we are set back."

Police are concerned that *Panorama* was investigating for months possible corruption and made no contact although operations might have been at risk. When the programme-makers went to police late last week there were delays over making their material available because they wanted to make sure the programme would be shown.

Yard sources say they wanted to act quickly and were worried about losing evidence but they could not move without the television programme material. One senior source said last night the BBC and police would have to look at the ethical implications of what had occurred.

Nearly 24 hours after Monday's broadcast Detective Constable John Donald, a detective with the southeast regional crime squad, was arrested in Croydon, south London. One of two other detectives arrested on Monday evening was released on police bail yesterday. The other was still being questioned. Senior Yard officers fear they may be dealing with a "corrupt cell" of up to five officers including two detective sergeants and three constables working within the southeast regional crime squad and the national criminal intelligence bureau.

Howard relaxes his stance on fire pay

The government sanctioned fire authority employers to apply in full the index-linked pay formula for Britain's 48,000 firefighters next year, in spite of its pay freeze for all public sector workers.

But Michael Howard, the home secretary, speaking to local authority associations, said he would give no ground on this year's pay settlement, insisting that public sector pay rises must be within the 1.5 per cent limit. The employers hope Mr Howard's commitment will reduce the likelihood of firefighters voting to strike in a ballot to begin next week, but they recognise that talks on Friday with the Fire Brigades Union are the final chance of averting the ballot.

Record crack haul

Customs officers made their biggest seizure of crack in a haul of drugs worth £2.4 million. The 10kg of the cocaine derivative was discovered in food in luggage at Gatwick airport on Sunday, customs officials said yesterday. A woman from Nigeria has been charged with smuggling a controlled drug.

Anti-abortionist cleared

Phyllis Bowman, 67, national director of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, was acquitted in Southwark Crown Court, London, yesterday of corrupt practice charges because they were not laid in time. It was alleged she had illegally interfered with a Labour MP's campaign in Halifax by producing anti-abortion leaflets.

700 mourn teenager

Seven hundred people gathered at St Mary's church in Plympton, Devon, to pay their respects to a 17-year-old who died chasing a shoplifter. The Rev Brian Lay described John Roberts as a positive person who fell victim to a negative, violent society. The teenager died when the thief turned and attacked him. A man has been charged with murder.

Saleroom staff arrested

Thirteen staff, mainly porters, have been arrested at Phillips, the Bond Street saleroom, in connection with alleged thefts. All have been bailed to appear again at West End Central police station at the end of next month pending enquiries. Two are former employees. Christopher Weston, chairman of Phillips, said the firm had co-operated fully with police.

CORRECTION

A caption to a photograph accompanying a report (September 22) on counterfeit goods incorrectly stated that the goods had been seized at Spitalfields Market, east London. They had not, and we apologise to the management and traders at the market for the error.

Victim mercy

September shivers to a show conclusion

Bus crash still on

Victim asks judge to show mercy to murder-plot wife

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A HUSBAND yesterday pleaded with a judge to show leniency to his wife, who had plotted with her lover to kill him. The man said he had forgiven his wife, who admitted conspiring to murder him.

George Taylor, 39, told the High Court in Edinburgh: "I have forgiven her for the whole incident. She and my kids are my life." He begged Lord Coulsfield not to jail his wife Morag, and said that if she went to jail the consequences for himself and his four children would be horrendous.

Mr Taylor, a maintenance engineer, took the unusual step of going into the witness box after his wife and her lover, Martin Randall, a waiter, admitted conspiracy to murder.

Taylor, 36, of Polmont, and Randall, 31, of Grangemouth, admitted paying £1,000 to an unknown man as part of a plot to murder Mr Taylor. The court was told that Taylor and Randall had had a three-year

relationship. "We were a good team and brought up our family in an honourable way," he said. He was satisfied that they could make a fresh start if his wife were freed. He told the court that they had three boys and a girl, aged between 7 and 13.

David Burns QC, for Taylor, said that her affair with Randall had led to this "temporary aberration". She did not really want her husband to be murdered.

Mr Taylor said that soon after his wife had begun her affair with Randall she had confessed to him. "She felt that she could not carry on with this thing and had to let me know. My wife and my family are my life. Money is nothing when you have a wife and family. I want to continue living with my wife. There is no doubt in my mind that we can make a go of the marriage again."

He did not think he would be able to cope with the children if his wife was jailed.

She had taken part-time jobs to help the family budget but the family was the main thing in her life. She also ran a rescue service for stray cats.

Mr Taylor said he had gone to the procurator fiscal's office to try to get the charges dropped because he was frightened about what might happen to his wife. "I am just begging for leniency for my wife," he told the judge.

Alan Turnbull, for Randall, said the plot was a naive one that had never any chance of success. "It was borne out of an infatuation which was now over," he said. The hitman, a stranger to the couple, had recognised the complete naivety of the people he was dealing with, he said.

Lord Coulsfield called for social enquiry and community service reports and adjourned the case until October 15. He told the accused that he wanted to make it clear to them that the nature of the charge which they admitted was "desperately serious".

September shivers to a showery conclusion

By Robin Young

SEPTEMBER is on course to be the coldest and wettest for three decades in parts of southeast England. As dismal, dank weather continued yesterday, the London Weather Centre predicted more rain today and temperatures again below the seasonal normal.

Monday's maximum temperature at Heathrow, a chilly 10C, was the lowest since 1946. The previous record low in the intervening years was 10.6C.

It was a similar story at Cottesmore in Leicestershire, where on Monday the temperature failed to rise above 8.3C. At Wyton in Cambridgeshire, the maximum of 10.1C was lower than on any September day since 1955.

A spokesman for London Underground said that heavy rainfall had heightened concern about rising ground water threatening the safety of the capital's underground services.

"Over the years, irrespective of summer droughts and hosepipe bans, London's water table has risen as manufacturing industry declines and draws less water from the aquifers," he said. "Every day London Underground has to pump three million gallons of water out of its tunnels and stations. The problem is exacerbated in periods of heavy rain, when the problems become more and more dangerous."

Today is expected to be cool and wet again in much of the country. The outlook for Thursday and Friday remains unsettled with showers or longer outbreaks of rain.

Forecast, page 22

Mother crippled by birth blunder receives £1.5m

By Ronald Fairs

A MOTHER of four who was blinded, crippled and left barely able to speak because of a medical blunder while giving birth to her son has accepted a lump sum of £1.5 million damages.

Linda Withington, 37, of Hyde, Greater Manchester, almost died at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, in December 1989 after suffering post-partum haemorrhage, which caused cardiac arrest and brain damage, leaving

her quadriplegic. Her husband Stephen, 40, an operations manager, said yesterday: "No amount of money will ever compensate for the heart-break Linda is going through. Instead of being able to look after her own children, as any mother would wish, she faced a lifetime of darkness that Paul, now aged three, could not understand."

"She realises he is there but gets very upset that she will never see him, especially when

he asks her to read a story. He still wants to know why his mummy cannot see or read anything to him."

The hospital admitted liability within days of the incident and the family has received £250,000 in interim payments after a settlement at the High Court in Liverpool in March.

The £1.5 million figure was agreed on Monday with the Central Manchester Health Authority to provide the nursing care, special equipment and therapy treatment that Mrs Withington will need at home for the rest of her life.

Michael Wyatt, assistant chief executive of the authority, said yesterday: "She was an at-risk patient, which should have been spotted and steps taken to prevent the haemorrhage or reduce its effect. There is always an element of risk but it was an avoidable medical accident."

An internal enquiry took place immediately at St Mary's Hospital. Lessons were learnt, Mr Wyatt said, but no disciplinary action was taken. As the health service is not covered by insurance, the settlement will be met by the taxpayer.

The couple have three other children, Michael, 13, Stuart, 10, and Angela, 8.



Linda Withington and her son Paul yesterday

Tragedy without a warning

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

ABOUT one woman in a hundred suffers a post-partum haemorrhage. Loss of up to one pint and a half of blood after giving birth is considered normal but when the bleeding cannot be stopped, the mother's life may be in danger.

Joe Jordan, consultant obstetrician at the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women and spokesman for the Royal College of Obstetricians, said: "A post-partum haemorrhage can happen out of the blue without any warning. The difficulty we face,

even in a major hospital, is that it may not be possible to arrest the haemorrhage and replace the blood without damage to the mother. But a haemorrhage of the degree suffered by Mrs Withington is very uncommon."

The most common cause of haemorrhaging is incomplete delivery of the placenta. Normally it peels away from the wall of the uterus, which abruptly contracts, squeezing the blood vessels and stopping any bleeding.

However, if the placenta is torn from the wall of the

uterus and becomes stuck, the uterus cannot contract and continues to bleed.

Patients who have haemorrhaged before, have an overstretched uterus because they are carrying twins or have had many previous pregnancies are at highest risk. For them an obstetrician should be on standby with supplies of matched blood available. "If the mother collapses you can then put blood in immediately. You don't have very much time and ten minutes can make a big difference," Mr Jordan said.



Performers from Buddy, Cats and Starlight Express launch the arts season

London woos visitors with arts

By Marianne Curphey

A NEW international arts season for London, intended to attract overseas tourists and rival music festivals in Salzburg, Vienna and Bayreuth, was launched yesterday.

The London Arts Season will bring together more than 100 museums, art galleries and concert halls under an arrangement with booking agencies. It is designed to woo foreign visitors to the city during the traditionally quiet winter months and features appearances by José Carreras, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Jessye Norman, André Previn and Sir Georg Solti.

The £1.5m promotion will allow foreign and domestic tourists to pre-book shows and

concerts they wish to see during February and March. A new London arts information centre will give advance details and guarantee allocation for the majority of London's most sought-after tickets. Hundreds of tickets for the Picasso exhibition at the Tate Gallery, seats at musicals like *Sunset Boulevard* and *Crazy for You*, and tickets for classical concerts, including Carreras's performance in March, have been set aside for the venture.

The scheme is backed by the British Tourist Authority (BTA), English Tourist Board (ETB) and London Tourist Board, with extra money from private sponsors. Special packages will offer tourists a combination of flights, accommodation and entertainment.

TODAY IN SECTION 2

Liberated in San Francisco



● "Everywhere there were pick-up joints — bars, bath-houses, supermarkets, even laundromats — and everywhere people were having sex, both straight and curved." Benedict Nightingale, wide-eyed, reviews Channel 4's adaptation of Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*, starring Olympia Dukakis (above) as Anna Madrigal: page 37

Plus: Chatsworth House's 200 fabulous Old Masters, on show at the British Museum: page 37. And why pop's wrinkles still rule: page 39

Best for business

● Plans revealed yesterday by The Times to halve the number of miners in Britain by next summer caused a stir at the Labour Party conference, Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor, reports from Brighton: page 25

● A record 651 directors have been disqualified from running a public company, Colin Narborough reports: page 26

Best for sport

● Frank Bruno has fame and fortune but what he wants most is to be considered a genuine contender for the world heavyweight boxing crown. This Saturday he has the chance to prove himself against the WBC champion, Lennox Lewis. Srikanth Sen considers his chances: page 44, 48

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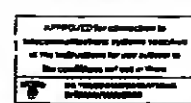
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Bus crash children still on critical list

THREE children were still in critical condition in hospital last night after Monday's school bus crash in Humberston, which killed their driver, Dennis Ellis, 64, of Huggate, near York, died when his double-decker was sliced open after it was in collision with an articulated lorry at Wilberfoss.

Only five of the 63 youngsters from Woldgate School escaped injury. A hospital consultant said many more would have been seriously hurt if they had not been in the back of the bus. Seven were in hospital yesterday

with head injuries. Three of them — Mark Robson, 13, and Michelle Perkins, of Stamford Bridge, and Helen Steel, 11 — are critical.

Police said the crash happened when the lorry allegedly jack-knifed into the bus after braking when a car turning right waited for oncoming traffic to pass.

Tributes were paid to Mr Ellis, who had come out of retirement to help on bus runs. He was known as Uncle Dennis to the children, who last week pooled their pocket money to buy him a birthday present.

Sacked white worker claims race bias

A MAN who lost his £20,000-a-year job at the Commission for Racial Equality claimed yesterday that he was victimised because he is white.

Michael Ringe, 46, who worked as a print-room supervisor at the commission's headquarters for nearly two years, told an industrial tribunal at Croydon, London, that Desiree Thompson, his Afro-Caribbean boss, had wanted him out.

When his 21-month contract ended, Mr Ringe from Thirlestone, near St Albans, Hertfordshire, was replaced by a black man, the tribunal

heard. Mr Ringe is the first white employee to claim racial discrimination against the commission, which works for the rights of ethnic minorities. More than half the commission's employees are black or Asian, the hearing was told.

Gerard Germany, who is representing Mr Ringe, said the commission's behaviour towards his case had been "inconsiderate, disdainful and contemptuous".

David Milton, the tribunal chairman, adjourned the hearing for a date to be fixed after a key witness was unable to attend.

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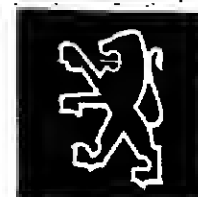
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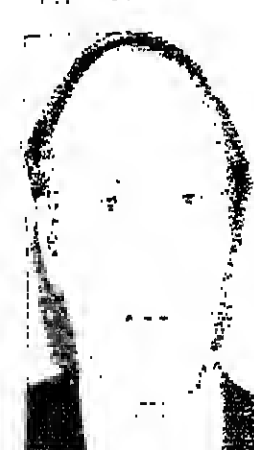
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Teenagers fail to heed warnings on tobacco

The government has failed to meet its target for reducing smoking by under 16s. Health experts blame cigarette advertising

By IAN JENKINS AND JEREMY LAURANCE

TEENAGERS are failing to respond to the government's anti-smoking campaign, despite efforts to increase awareness of the health risks and the anti-social effects of the habit. Increasingly sophisticated campaigns to counter those used by the tobacco industry are now to be used by health experts and anti-smoking groups to persuade teenagers not to become smokers. The government is failing to meet its target for reducing smoking among 11 to 15-year-olds.

The Health Education Authority wants the Advertising Standards Authority to stop the worst excesses of advertising aimed at the young, and is appealing to young people's concerns about the environment. Where young people, in particular girls, fail to react to health warnings, it is thought they might be moved by arguments about the destruction of the environment in tobacco-producing countries and the multinational manipulation of the market.

The government had aimed to reduce smoking among 11 to 15-year-olds by one third between 1988 and 1994, but has seen a rise to the figures published yesterday for 1992. Dr Kenneth Calman, the government's chief medical officer, said the figures, which show smoking falling among all age groups except the under 16s, were worrying. "The 11 to 15-year-olds are a critical group. If we can prevent them taking up smoking they are unlikely to start thereafter," he said.

Health organisations react-



Calman: alarm over figures

ed to the figures with renewed demands for a ban on tobacco advertising and a sharp increase in the price of cigarettes. "This is the only sure way to cut down tobacco consumption," said Professor Gordon McVie, scientific director of the Cancer Research Campaign. Parents Against Tobacco said tobacco advertising undermined parents' warnings about smoking.

The Health Education Authority published a study yesterday which it claimed showed an advertising campaign for Embassy Regal cigarettes in Scotland and the North had had more impact on children than on adults. The campaign, which features a "somewhat dim" smoker called Reg, was noticed by 91 per cent of teenagers compared with 49 per cent of adults. In school playgrounds in Manchester, "Reg" has become a synonym for a stupid person.

The tobacco industry claims that advertising only influences brand selection and does not encourage young people to smoke.

Professor McVie said "Our research" has conclusively shown that young people are influenced by tobacco advertising and price. The only sure way the government can hope to cut down on consumption is by banning all advertising and dramatically increasing the cost of cigarettes.

Launching his annual report, *On the State of the Nation's Health*, Dr Calman said that men were the weaker sex in health terms. They have more serious illness, make less effort to look after themselves and stay away from doctors until it is too late.

Accidents and suicide claim the lives of young men who are three times more likely to die between the ages of 15 and 29 than women, while heart disease, strokes and lung cancer carry off the old. An 18-year-old man has an 80 per cent chance of surviving to 65 compared with an 18-year-old woman's 88 per cent chance.

Men smoke and drink more and exercise less than women. They are less inclined to visit their GP but more likely to be admitted to hospital.

Pensioner's body lay in flat for 9 months

HOUSING officials who visited a pensioner to find out why he had run up rent arrears of more than £1,000 found that he had been dead for nine months, an inquest was told yesterday.

The decomposing corpse of James Huggert, 71, had lain undiscovered in his flat at Stockwell, south London, since before Christmas. The hearing was told that Mr Huggert was rarely seen by neighbours and had little contact with his family.

Until August 18, Lambeth council's housing department had failed to become alarmed by Mr Huggert's continued failure to meet their demands for payment.

Joyce Simms, a housing officer with the council, had telephoned social services

once, but no action was taken to investigate Mr Huggert's welfare. Miss Simms told the inquest at Southwark that she had broken in to Mr Huggert's flat after an eviction notice had been issued.

The coroner, Professor Sir Montague Levine, recorded an open verdict. He suggested that social services and the housing department hold an enquiry into why action was not taken sooner to check on Mr Huggert, although he said there was no indication that they could have saved his life.

"It seems to me there is something lacking here and I think there should be an enquiry and some sort of directive which could be laid down by housing and social services in cases like this in the future," he said.

BT tackles nuisance of kiosk sex adverts

By RACHEL KELLY

THE design of telephone boxes may be changed to deter the fixing of prostitutes' cards.

BT, Westminster University and the Metropolitan police have set up a group to investigate the nuisance and will report in November. Donal Kerrigan, principal solicitor at Westminster council, said that redesigning the boxes to avoid crevices where cards can be lodged might be considered.

Westminster council has already tried to make it a criminal offence for anyone to distribute the cards. At present it is a civil offence under the litter act to place cards in a telephone box, and affixing a sticker can lead to a prosecution for

criminal damage. The council failed last year to change the law after the English Collective of Prostitutes argued that advertising made their lives safer as they no longer had to tout for business on the streets.

The council then tried to seek authority to cut off advertised numbers, but the telecommunications watchdog Ofcom said that would be against the law.

Mr Kerrigan said the number of stickers and cars was rising, especially in the West End of London and around major stations. "Our main complaint is about the effect on the environment. The rubbish is unsightly, though some residents do complain about the nature of the ads."

Scotland Yard charter sets out performance targets for the capital's force



Paul Condon, police commissioner, detailing the new policing charter yesterday

Police chief pledges swift help for victims of crime

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard yesterday pledged that its officers will answer 999 calls within 15 seconds and respond to emergencies across the 800 square miles of London within 12 minutes.

Launching a new policing charter, Paul Condon, commissioner of the Metropolitan police, said: "We are telling people what they have a right to expect from the police and the standards they can judge us against."

Objectives are set out in the charter and performance will be monitored, with average police response times published every three months.

Mr Condon said that new targets, including for the number of crimes solved and for campaigns against particular offences, might be added to the charter later.

Police had already achieved some improvements, Mr Condon said. The number of recorded crimes in London in the first six months of the year had not increased and the number of household burglaries reported to police had fallen by five per cent.

The seven-point charter promises:

□ Eighty per cent of 999 calls will be answered within 15 seconds

□ Police will arrive at 75 per cent of urgent incidents within 15 minutes

□ Non-urgent telephone calls will be responded to within 18 seconds 90 per cent of the time

□ Calls made directly to police will be answered within 30 seconds 60 per cent of the time

□ Letters from the public will be answered within 10 working days 80 per cent of the time

□ Callers who visit police stations will receive help within 75 per cent of cases

□ Police will aim to give 100 per cent satisfaction to 80 per cent of people who visit stations and to 90 per cent of crime or accident victims.

Mr Condon said that the charter was not a gimmick and was based on six principles of policing covering value for money, courtesy, consola-

tion, information and the setting of standards.

He said it had been developed from what the public had told police they wanted. Mr Condon said that robust standards had been set and police were well on the way to achieving them. Scotland Yard would report openly and honestly on what had been achieved. "This charter is about confidence and responding to what Londoners say they want from the police," he said.

Mr Condon said the claim that public confidence in police had collapsed was a myth. Scotland Yard surveys showed that 90 per cent of people questioned were satisfied with the treatment they received as victims of crime and road traffic accidents or when they visited police stations.

"We like to knock the police and talk about bad news, but these confidence levels would be the envy of many private concerns and public bodies," Mr Condon said.

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Grounded Rushdie says Major backs his bid to fly on BA

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

ALL British airlines and some foreign ones have barred Salman Rushdie from their flights after security experts warned that his face was too well known to Muslim extremists.

The ban, which was imposed by the Foreign Office and Mr Rushdie claims, the prime minister, was supported by security chiefs from other government departments, including the Department of Transport. It has been in force for more than two years since Mr Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, was condemned to death by Iran for alleged blasphemy.

Although Mr Rushdie has been able to travel on some foreign airlines which considered that his face was not so well known, he was informed of the decision by British Airways, which rejected recent Foreign Office appeals to lift the ban.

Mr Rushdie claimed yesterday that John Major privately supported his bid to fly the flag on BA. The prime minister told me that he had the

greatest sympathy with my request that BA agree to carry me," he said.

Mr Rushdie added that the government attached the highest importance to his travels abroad, seeing them as a way of rallying international support. "Yet on at least one occasion a foreign trip, which the prime minister believed to be the most politically important of all, had to be abandoned because of the absence of a carrier."

It became clear yesterday, however, that BA is not alone in refusing to carry him. Neither British Midland nor Virgin — while refusing to talk publicly about their security arrangements — is apparently willing to take the risk.

British Airways is particularly concerned about the threat because of its three-times-a-week service to Tehran. It fears that if it were to publicly rescind the ban, its small staff in the Iranian capital could be open to retaliation.

Airline security chiefs regularly meet government security and intelligence officers to monitor any possible risk to aircraft safety from potential terrorists, known extremists and criminals.

They say they do not have a "blacklist" as such, and it is left to their discretion whether they carry any individual passenger.

The transport department has tacitly supported the airlines' decision, but emphasises that it is a matter for each airline to decide.

Mr Rushdie has managed to beat the ban on at least one occasion, when he flew from Paris with BA by booking his flight at the last minute and giving no indication of his name until he checked in. He might also have been able to use other British flights on occasions, although security officials have warned their staff to refuse him access.

"While we have every sympathy with Mr Rushdie's difficulties with overseas travel, our ultimate responsibility is the safety and security of our customers and our staff," a BA spokesman said.

Bomb-case man wins 12-year battle to clear his name

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A BUSINESSMAN jailed for making explosive devices for Syria won the 12-year battle to clear his name yesterday when his conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal.

The court also ruled that John Berry's conviction was unsafe and unsatisfactory because fresh evidence cast doubt on unchallenged scientific testimony that the electronic timers could have only a military use.

Mr Berry, of Norwich, whose case was first highlighted in *The Times* in 1981, said: "I feel I have been treated so badly by the people who operate the system. I am angry about the time it has taken, but I am pleased for all my friends who have stood by me and supported me."

He was sentenced at

Chelmsford Crown Court in 1983 to eight years in prison, later reduced to six, after being convicted of making explosive devices for terrorist use in the Middle East. He spent three and a half years in jail.

Mr Berry won an appeal on a technical point of law but the House of Lords reinstated the conviction and he failed to get the Court of Appeal to reopen his case. During the Lords hearing he fled the country but returned later. He was given a second appeal after the Home Office asked the Court of Appeal to review the case.

He appealed on the grounds that the judge had misdirected the jury, that there had been non-disclosure of information from the Israeli security service which might have helped his case, and that fresh evidence challenged scientific evidence given

at his trial over the likely use of 1,000 electronic timers sold to the Syrian government under a legitimate contract.

In a reserved judgment Lord Taylor described part of the original summing up by Judge Greenwood at Chelmsford Crown Court as being "muddled" and leaving the jury with an "erroneous implication" of the defence case. Mr Berry was not supplying the timers to terrorists but to the Syrian government.

"What was lacking was a clear direction that if the timers were probably being supplied to the Syrian government, that was a good defence and the jury should not concern itself with how they were to be used by that government," Lord Taylor said.

He also criticised the judge for not making clear to the jury that they had to be sure Mr Berry meant the devices to be used for an explosion.



John Berry celebrating yesterday's decision

Judges who flee from the path of justice

Bernard Levin's 1991 *Times* article, which first highlighted Mr Berry's case



Bernard Levin's 1991 *Times* article, which first highlighted Mr Berry's case

Genetic pig livers to save lives

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE first use of genetically engineered pig organs to save human lives could take place as early as next year, American scientists said yesterday.

The experiments are likely to involve patients with complete liver failure who cannot be given a human transplant. Dr John Logan, of the US biotech company DNx, said: "The pig's liver would be used as a filter outside the body."

The hope is that this will give the patient's own liver a chance to recover, or restore health sufficiently to enable a human organ to be transplanted. Two patients even their lives to the procedure, but the unmodified pig organs used were rapidly destroyed by the rejection process and had to be replaced daily by fresh livers.

Dr Logan says that this problem should be avoided when genetically engineered organs are used. He envisages the operation as a first step towards full transplantation, which is not expected to be possible for several years.

Shopping service launched on TV

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's first non-stop home shopping television channel will be launched on Friday, giving viewers the opportunity to buy clothes, kitchen utensils, electrical equipment and thousands of other consumer goods without having to leave their homes.

Known as QVC, the channel will be available on cable and satellite television as part of a package of 14 paid-for channels offered by BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster owned by The News Corporation, which controls News International, parent company of *The Times*.

QVC — the initials stand for quality, value and convenience — will initially screen eight hours a day of live presentations of goods. To place an order, viewers dial a number shown on the screen, give their credit card details and sit back to await delivery. Peter Ridsdale, chief executive of QVC UK, said the company could offer better value than high street stores because it bought single items in bulk and had low overheads. Stock is kept in a warehouse in Liverpool, where the company's 135-strong telephone sales team is located.

"We aim to sell products 20 per cent below the recommended retail price and we offer a money-back guarantee in case customers are not satisfied," he said.

Each product will be advertised live on air for between six to eight minutes by one of QVC's seven presenters. Programmes include *Fashion Hour*, *Jewellery Show Case*, and a *Do-It-Yourself* show. Mr Ridsdale has signed up Zandra Rhodes to produce an autumn clothes collection, with no item costing more than £100. Retail analysts believe that the company's success will depend on its ability to project upmarket brands.

The success of television shopping in the US is ascribed to the chatty style of the hosts, which reduces consumers' resistance to persuasion. QVC hopes to recreate the same style in Britain by making all presentations unscripted and filling them with hints and tips about the products.

New shafts caused pit tragedy

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE roof collapse that killed three coal miners at the Bilthorpe colliery in Nottinghamshire last month was caused by new shafts being cut immediately alongside existing ones, according to the Health and Safety Executive.

British Coal has accepted a recommendation from Brian Langdon, the HSE's deputy inspector of mines, to halt such operations, known as "skin-to-skin working". Until the Bilthorpe disaster, this operation was in use at two

other pits in the Nottinghamshire coalfield.

An interim report by Mr Langdon into the roof collapse, published yesterday, condemned the roof-bolting system. The technique has been criticised, mainly by the National Union of Mine-workers, as a cheap alternative to safer traditional props.

The controversial system involves inserting steel rods into resin in holes in the rock strata. The method, imported from Australia and the United

States, can be up to 50 per cent cheaper than conventional techniques.

However, Mr Langdon said that no known form of support could have prevented the collapse, which he described as "a unique combination of factors, like the 100-year flood which might never happen again."

The interim report was welcomed by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers as an "honest reflection" of the facts presented to the enquiry team.

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Holiday bargains get away

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAY-MAKERS tempted by bargain offers in travel agents' windows are likely to find more than 70 per cent of the holidays unavailable, according to a survey by trading standards officers.

Lothian Regional Council began an investigation after complaints from consumers and concern in the trade. It found that but of 24 holidays advertised in agents' windows, eight were available.

Because the discrepancy was so high, officers carried out a second survey in which they identified themselves. Thirteen agents were visited, but only three were able to offer the holidays selected at the prices advertised.

Maxine Cain, spokeswoman for the Association for British Travel Agents, said: "It can be very difficult if an offer comes in the morning from an operator and 2,000 travel agents all put it in their window. By the afternoon the chances are it's gone, but a travel agent doesn't know that until a customer asks for it."

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Anti-racist groups attack police over BNP ban

■ Civil liberties campaigners claim the decision by police to prevent a BNP demonstration is a threat to freedom

By EDWARD GORMAN

TWO anti-racist organisations accused Scotland Yard yesterday of failing to uphold the right of the British National Party to demonstrate after its members were arrested in east London at the weekend before they could gather.

Police arrested 57 BNP members as they made their way towards Brick Lane, but no attempt was made to arrest any of the more than 1,000 Anti-Nazi League members who gathered in the area to protest against them.

Several BNP members who were held in custody were yesterday instructing solicitors to prepare cases for wrongful arrest against the police.

Liberty, the civil rights organisation that has been a leading campaigner against racial discrimination since its foundation in 1932, said the police had failed in their duty to protect the right of the BNP to make a protest — a freedom guaranteed by international law.

John Wadham, legal officer

for Liberty, said the organisation condemned the racist views of the BNP — which wants all non-whites repatriated to their countries of origin — but nevertheless upheld their right to express themselves.

"Taking away the right to protest is expensive and risky," Mr Wadham said. "In a democratic society, that right is one of the most fundamental for citizens. It is incredibly dangerous for the police to tinker with it."

His criticisms were echoed by Workers Against Racism, one of a number of groups that took part in the weekend demonstration against the BNP.

Sharmini Singh, its spokeswoman, said that by making the arrests the police had committed what amounted to a dangerous infringement of civil rights. "It is much better if we deal with this problem ourselves," Ms Singh said. "Accepting the police's right to tell people where they can and cannot



Richard Edmonds, the BNP's activities organiser, who is in custody on charges of violent disorder after clashes with anti-racist protesters

stand, what they can and cannot say, is a recipe for disaster."

Police yesterday defended what they described as the time as their "bold and unusual" action. They said their actions were instrumental in preventing violence between BNP members and the Anti-

Nazi League for the third weekend in a row in Brick Lane.

Richard Edmonds, the BNP's national activities organiser, who helped plan its successful Tower Hamlets ward by-election campaign on the Isle of Dogs earlier this month, is at present remanded

in custody with three other party members, on charges of violent disorder arising from clashes with anti-racist protesters in east London two weeks ago.

Michael Taylor, deputy assistant commissioner in charge of police covering east London, who made the deci-

sion, said: "It is the right of those who want to live peacefully in the area which should come first."

"To prevent people causing serious public disorder is not, in my view, a denial of their rights."

Mr Taylor said on Sunday that he had telephoned a BNP

official on Friday to inform him that party members would not be welcome in Brick Lane where, for years, they have traditionally handed out party literature on Sunday mornings.

He warned them that they would face arrest if they attempted to approach the

area. As the Anti-Nazi League demonstrators gathered, officers arrested 57 BNP supporters when they tried to leave the Mile End tube station.

After being warned a second time not to approach Brick Lane — a warning the BNP supporters chose to ignore — they were held on suspicion of breaching the peace. They were released once police officers were satisfied the risk of clashes had passed.

The tactic of intercepting people on their way to a possibly violent protest has been used before by police against miners and hunt saboteurs.

The disagreement about the arrests came as market traders in Brick Lane were reported to be preparing to present a second application to the High Court seeking an injunction banning the BNP and the Anti-Nazi League from demonstrating within a mile of the area on Sundays.

Traders at the flea market, which attracts customers and tourists from all over London, believe that their business has been badly affected by the recent race-related violence in the area.

Their first application for an injunction was turned down by the judge, partly because it had not been worded correctly.

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Murder rate in Miami falls by a third

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE annual murder rate in Miami has dropped by more than a third over the past ten years in spite of the recent spate of attacks on tourists, according to the head of the city's tourism department.

Mayco Villafana, of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, said in London yesterday that fewer than 2,600 people out of 11 million visitors had encountered any sort of crime last year. In the first six months of this year the number of robberies against tourists had dropped by 25 per cent.

Mr Villafana, who is in Britain to meet tour operators and try to calm fears over recent attacks on visitors, said that the tourist industry had been encouraged by proposals put forward by President Clinton to reduce the number of firearms on the streets.

Ten foreign tourists have been killed in Florida in the past year, prompting fears that holiday-makers will switch to safer resorts. Mr Villafana admitted that recently there had been "senseless" murders.

"There is a propensity, I think, in some of our juveniles to disregard all law and disregard all life," he said. They felt that because they were juveniles they would get away with their crimes.

Mr Villafana said that holiday bookings to Miami appeared to be steady, but tourists planning visits for later this year and next year might change their minds. "The next two months is going to be the telling time as to how much the incidents are going to affect the industry."

Holiday boy back in court

A boy of 14 is to appear in court next month charged with seven offences committed between holidays in Spain organised by Wiltshire social services to keep him out of trouble.

The boy appeared before magistrates at Swindon, Wiltshire, yesterday, charged with theft and attempted theft. The case was adjourned to youth court at Wootton Bassett next month where he will face five more serious charges, including assaulting police.

Crash charge

Stephen Bedo, a 40-year-old fireman, has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving after the appliance he was driving to a 999 call was in a crash at Westgate on Sea, Kent.

Gallant slip

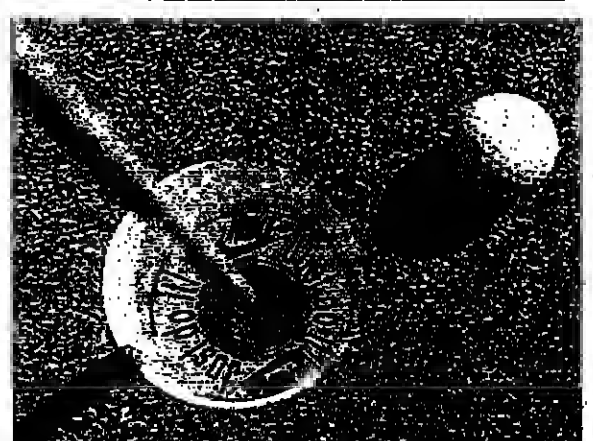
Mark Lawrence, 24, is recovering in hospital at Worthing, West Sussex, after slipping and crushing his ribs while clambering across a roof to open the window of a flat whose occupant had locked herself out.

Late reward

Len Porter, a 73-year-old ex-sailor, of North Petherton, Somerset, yesterday received a medal from Russia for his service on destroyers escorting food convoys there in the second world war.

Postmen tied up

A postman and three postal workers were attacked and tied up by a masked gang who drove off in a Post Office van with parcels and letters from Wilberfoss, Humberside.



How golfers will see the advertisements

Advertisers put faith in power of golf

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 500 private and municipal golf courses are preparing to place advertisements at the bottom of the holes on their greens.

From next month, golfers leaning forward to retrieve balls from the 18th hole will be confronted by "unobtrusive" corporate logos. The practice, known as "Ad in the Hole" and widespread in America, is being pioneered here by Golf Media,

which has so far signed up five top golf courses, including Royal Dornoch in Highland, Cruden Bay in Grampian, and Ganton in

North Yorkshire. Nearly 500 other clubs have asked for information. Twenty per cent of the revenue generated by the scheme is pledged to the club itself.

Manufacturers of quality goods have greeted the development. According to Golf Media's research, 80 per cent of golfers have a higher than average level of disposable income.

The first company to sign up is Glenmorangie, the malt whisky distillers. From next week its name will appear inside the holes on ten Scottish golf courses.

over BNP

مركز الأخبار

THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Desperate sacrifice by Short fails to snatch first victory

By Raymond Keene and Ian Murray

EL Short threw caution to winds and sacrificed his king against Garry Kasparov in what seemed a desperate attempt to win for the first time in the 1993 World Chess Championship. The gambit, which left the king in the open, failed to pay off when the game ended in a draw after 43 moves.

With the advantage of play, White in yesterday's tenth game, Short rattled through a first half-dozen moves at lightning speed, suggesting he was prepared to play his naturally aggressive game. He seemed to have all the confidence he showed when he played White and when he made a move of taking a first game off the world champion. Then Kasparov made a move Short appeared

not to have prepared for, and the British challenger seemed to collapse in slow motion. For the next 52 minutes he sat squirming in his seat, undecided between one of only two possible moves. This was longer than either player had spent on any move in the previous nine games and meant that Short was putting himself under serious time pressure.

Eventually Short picked the more defensive of the two moves on offer. This 13th move quickly seemed to have been uncalculated as he was forced to surrender his queen without a struggle three moves later.

With the world champion's queen roaming the board freely, he was hard pressed to defend his remaining pieces, while his time was running out fast. With only 25 minutes

Altitude sickness hits challenger

CHESS is a form of deep and secret intimacy, and it is a wonderfully incongruous event when performed on the public stage. If it is too much to say that chess should be a matter for consenting adults in private, it is still a duel best performed in the silent cockpit of the mind.

There is a touch of unfeeling bravado in the public performance of chess. But you do not get the feeling that you are watching a public performance of sex. It is far more shaming than that. It is rather as if you were spying on the deepest secrets of a marriage.

At all professional sporting events, the public has a role to play: hushed and voluble by turn. All players respond to the presence of their audience. But in the Savoy Theatre the peering crowd is involved, yet not involved: a party to what is going on, yet quite apart from it. We listen to a commentary on whispering head-sets: occasionally the theatre chuckles at a grandmasterly aside, and the players, cut off from this banter, look askance.

Public pressure affects all those who take part in public competition. All agree that the hardest step of all is not the first but the last: the step to Test match, to World Cup, to major international. Some take to it like a duck to water, as Ian Botham did: some take time and struggle, but make it



in the end, as Mike Gatting did: some continue to struggle, like Graeme Hick. And some struggle, fail, and are never seen again: their name is legion.

I suspect that in chess this final leap, this mighty bound from the foothills of qualification to the Everest of world championship, is the hardest anyone in sport is asked to perform: and the reason is the spooky private/public nature of big-time chess.

Short, with the scalps of Kasparov and Timman dangling from his belt, has made the great bound and has clearly been suffering, appalled at the altitude, the exposure, the lack of what Mrs Thatcher would no doubt call the oxygen of privacy.

It is as if he were to move straight from the Wimbledon qualification tournament in the ill-attended obscurity of Roehampton to the final on the Centre Court, without a single intervening match. Instead of the interests of a closed world of buffs, Short has attracted the interest of a nation. Most chess is just chess, as most tennis is just tennis. But Wimbledon, and the world championships, are events. The load is crushing.

"It is a problem for every challenger," Kasparov said. "The challenger is not ready for a different level of resistance. You feel uncomfortable." Short is not only playing the Wimbledon final with mere Roehampton experience, he also happens to have run into John McEnroe at the peak of his game. McEnroe inspired, not intimidated, by the Himalayas.

- White: Nigel Short
Black: Garry Kasparov
Sicilian Defence
- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 1. e4 | c5 |
| 2. Nf3 | d8 |
| 3. d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. Nxd4 | Nb6 |
| 5. Nc3 | a6 |
| 6. Bc4 | e6 |
| 7. Bb3 | Nbd7 |
| 8. f4 | Nc5 |
| 9. Qf3 | b5 |
| 10. Bg5 | Bb7 |
| 11. h4 | h6 |
| 12. Bg5 | Bb7 |
| 13. 0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| 14. e5 | Nf6 |
| 15. Bxe7 | Qe7 |
| 16. Nxe4 | Rd3 |
| 17. exd8 | Nc3+ |
| 18. Nxc3 | Q8 |
| 19. g3 | Q6 |
| 20. Nc5 | Bc6 |
| 21. f5 | e5 |
| 22. d7 | Rd8 |
| 23. Rf6 | a5 |
| 24. a3 | a4 |
| 25. Nf2 | Qg2 |
| 26. c2 | Bd8 |
| 27. Nd3 | Bb3 |
| 28. Nxe5 | Qx2 |
| 29. Nc5 | Qx8 |
| 30. f6 | K7 |
| 31. Nxb3+ | Kg6 |
| 32. Nc6 | Qx2 |
| 33. Nf4+ | Q6 |
| 34. Nd3 | Qg1+ |
| 35. f5 | Qg5 |
| 36. Ne5 | g6 |
| 37. Rf1 | Be6 |
| 38. Nf7+ | Bx7 |
| 39. Rf7 | Qc5 |
| 40. Rf7 | Qc6 |
| 41. R7 | Qc3 |
| 42. Ne4 | Qc3+ |
| 43. Nd2 | Qc3 |
- Draw agreed.

Winning Move, page 44



A world away from the author's meticulously preserved study, left, in Burwash, Essex, new heights are to be scaled in the name of Kipling, right

Oxbridge team to put Kipling on the map

By Alan Hamilton

RUDYARD Kipling is to have a mountain named after him — provided a joint university expedition from Oxford and Cambridge can find it and climb it.

Mount Kipling, at present unnamed and unclimbed, is a remote and inaccessible peak rising nearly 20,000ft in the East Indian Himalayas, in the province of Arunachal Pradesh on the India-Tibet border. The expedition will attempt to conquer it next year to mark the centenary of publication of the perennially popular *Jungle Books*.

To reach the mountain, the explorers will have to negotiate great grey-green, greasy rivers, set about with fever trees, and worse.

According to Emily Johns, a medical student at Christ Church, Oxford, and the expedition doctor, only a handful of foreigners have ventured into Arunachal Pradesh, partly because some of the as-yet uncontacted indigenous tribes are said to be hostile to any intruders and still indulge in head-hunting.

Described as one of the world's most inhospitable, precipitous and jagged areas, the region remains largely unknown and unmapped in detail. Geographers are still uncertain of how the main Himalayan range runs through the state.

The six-strong expedition,

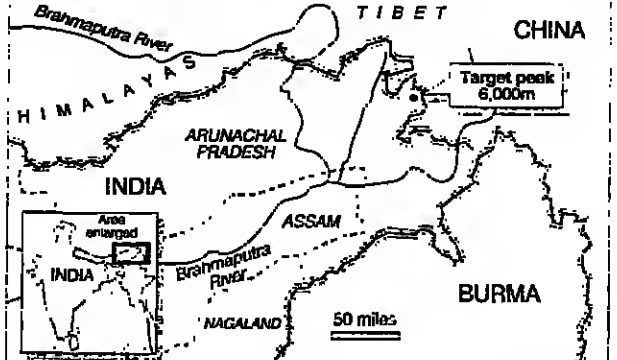
led by Matthias Hammer, an experienced German climber and a postgraduate biology student at Cambridge, will research and record the animal and plant life in one of the last vestiges of virgin forest. They will pass their findings to the Indian government to help to establish protected wildlife zones.

The area is thought to be home to a number of endangered species, including wolf, black bear, snow leopard, tiger and the white-eared pheasant. Botanically, the rainforest is believed equally rich.

The party, accompanied by local biologists and zoologists, plan to spend two months at base camp recording the flora and fauna and trying to find a route up their chosen mountain. Its slopes appear from a distance to be of a terrifying 40-degree steepness, and its foothills suffer some of the world's highest rainfall.

Undeterred by the fact that their hero had the good sense never to set foot in the jungle he wrote about, the team is calling itself the Rudyard Kipling Memorial Expedition, to the delight of the Kipling Society, which has agreed to support the venture.

"Kipling was under a bit of a cloud for many years and had a rather bad press,"



Norman Entract, secretary of the society, said yesterday. "But he is very much back in favour. You need only look at the success of the reissue of *The Jungle Book* film. Naming a mountain after him is a great way to honour the man."

The only other known topographical feature in the world which bears the author's name is Kipling, a small town in Saskatchewan, Canada, with which he had no known connection. More relevant is Rudyard Reservoir in Staffordshire, by the shores of which his parents once enjoyed a picnic and became engaged. In a moment of unbridled romance they named their son after the spot.

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THE TIMES checkmate

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TODAY'S WINNER will be announced in *The Times* tomorrow. There were five winners yesterday: R. Bodsworth, D. Floyd and I. Hadfield from London, P. Collins from Oxford, and S. Marsh from Sheffield.

TODAY'S CHESS BOARD

8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7							
6	f	i					i
5							
4							
3							
2							
1							
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g

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Leader's keynote speech fails again to challenge party's traditional assumptions

John Smith yesterday missed an opportunity for the second year running. His speech was stronger in delivery and in substance than last year in Blackpool. But the Labour leader again failed to confront his party with the implications of its loss of four general elections in a row.

He largely offered a restatement of traditional Labour moralism, with the exception of the radical ingredient of constitutional reform. There is an audience for that. It was in the Brighton conference centre yesterday and exists in Labour's working-class heartlands. That

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

may help him to win this afternoon's critical votes on the role of unions in selecting parliamentary candidates. But it is not sufficient.

What we heard was the real Mr Smith. He has a deeply rooted moral view of politics and feels genuine anger at the state of Britain. That provides an inner core to Labour's appeal and may produce a response in an electorate fed up with a party in office for so long.

Mr Smith's alternative had three strands, a high skill, high tech and high wage economy; a commitment to social services; and a commitment to democratic renewal, rights and citizenship. Returning to the proposals he made at the TUC earlier this month, he talked about a charter of employment rights giving the same legal rights to every worker, part-time or full-time, temporary or permanent, plus a national minimum wage. That sounds awfully like a return to the concessions to the trade unions made during the social contract days of the mid-1970s. Mr Smith's advisers

said that it is an example of 1980s thinking. They argue that large numbers of people fearful about their jobs and working conditions will respond that there is a growing reaction against the sense of a "sweatshop, bargain basement Britain". That may strike chords, but may also underestimate both the public's apprehension about union power and the cost in terms of lost jobs.

The Labour leader's commitment to the goal of full employment matches the party's mood, a return to broadly defined Keynesianism. But it begs questions about the

precise role of the state, both in affecting the level of demand and in intervening in industry. There was also no mention of inflation, public borrowing or of any fiscal or monetary constraints.

Similarly, Mr Smith powerfully reaffirmed public service values against free-market and commercial values. There is scope for the pendulum to swing back. Rail privatisation and some of the contracting-out initiatives are clearly unpopular with no obvious benefits. But Mr Smith gave no sign that he thought the public services might need reforming; that

the purchaser/provider split might have merits.

Mr Smith's radicalism has been mainly confined to constitutional matters. His success within the party will be apparent this afternoon. He claimed yesterday that a Labour government would "introduce the most radical package of constitutional reform ever proposed by any major political party". And he is more deeply committed than previous Labour leaders to devolution and to a bill of rights.

Constitutional reform is the area where Mr Smith has most successfully reached out beyond the tradi-

tional Labour constituency. He should adopt a similar approach in economic, social and industrial policies. He has not so far acknowledged why traditional "labourism", the approach of the Wilson and Callaghan governments, ran into the sand in the late 1970s: why democratic socialist parties throughout the West have been forced on to the defensive and have reviewed their programmes. Mr Smith needs to challenge the party's traditional assumptions. Yesterday he largely confirmed them.

PETER RIDDELL

Smith wins cheers for his ridicule of 'barmy' Tories

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ROBERT MORGAN

THE prime minister's biter private asides about noxious Conservative MPs came back to haunt him yesterday as John Smith branded him the "barmiest" Tory of all.

In a naked attempt to destroy John Major's personal credibility, which delighted delegates, the Labour leader told the party conference in Brighton that the "Tory vultures" were circling over Downing Street and that cabinet ministers were jostling for position.

As an angry and disillusioned public looked on, the prime minister and his "barmy army of right-wing ideologues" were ploughing on with their "crazy privatisation programme", trying to sell off everything from tax records to the railways.

Mr Smith's dramatisation of the feud within Tory ranks drew hoots of laughter from delegates relieved to hear that, for all their divisions over union links, the government was in even worse shape. He likened Mr Major to a jockey perched precariously on a stumbling grey mare while "Jockey Clarke" lurked in the stables sawing away at his rival's saddle-straps.

The Labour leader also struck a more serious note in his 55-minute address as he declared that the "ride of disgust" in the country could not be stemmed by another night of the long knives. He denounced the evasions of ministers over the arms to Iraq affair and the "slippery, sleazy slide from the cabinet room to the boardroom".

He sought to counter criticism that his leadership lacked direction and flair by strongly committing his party to full employment, investment in people and industry, a more open society and staunch defence of the public sector. "Today I offer the British people a better way and a clear choice — a choice between Labour's high skill, high tech, high wage economy and John Major's deadbeat, sweatshop, bargain basement Britain."

"I want to lead a Labour government that will introduce the most radical package of constitutional reform ever proposed by any major political party. I believe that will be the key battleground of the 1990s as we define the new politics of a new century."

Labour leader warns prime minister that the Conservative party 'vultures' are circling over Downing Street

Mr Smith also pleased trade unionists by repeating his promises of a sweeping new package of workers' rights. But warned them that failure to support his plans for internal reform could cost them the next election.

Mr Major's off-the-record admission that the 1980s had been no golden age exploded the myth behind boasts of an economic miracle under 14 years of Tory rule. The prime minister was "beginning to understand what his party is made of", Mr Smith said. He had discovered that members of his cabinet were "of doubtful parentage" and he had realised that many of his backbenchers were barmy. "We have been trying to tell him this for years."

He drew his biggest cheers when he said that Mr Major himself was losing his grip on

LABOUR IN BRIGHTON



reality. The prime minister should look into a mirror, repeat the words rail privatisation and ask: "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the barmiest of them all?"

Mr Major, he said, was looking again at employment rights. He was finding out what it was like to be at the mercy of a ruthless employer — the Conservative party.

"We can all see the Tory vultures circling above Downing Street. The threat of another unseemly dismissal is hanging in the air. Mr Major's cabinet colleagues, you know the ones I mean — let's call them the B team — are busy behind the scenes sharpening the knives and jostling for position. Only the other weekend the new Chancellor, Mr Clarke, cheerfully swinging his six-pack, tells the BBC that the government is still in a hole. With cabinet friends like him, who needs barmies?"

"But let me say this to the Tory party and to the men in grey suits who are even now preparing to hand Mr Major his P45 — it is the people who decide who should run this country... It makes no difference who leads this clapped-out government. The people will never trust the Conservatives again."

Mr Smith's speech was calculated to appeal to trade unionists and public sector workers. He bitterly attacked the government's plans for a pay bill freeze in the state sector and bowed to the left of his party by committing himself strongly to getting Britain's three million jobless back to work.

Afterwards he won plaudits, even from critics such as Peter Hain, the left-wing MP for Neath, who said that the agenda was moving in their direction.

Mr Smith said: "We believe that wealth creation is not the exclusive preserve of a privileged few but requires, indeed depends upon, the active involvement of the whole community. We reject the absurd double standard which encourages massive rewards for those at the top while everyone else has to suffer pay cuts, longer hours and fewer employment rights."

Mr Smith ridiculed the "utter nonsense" of Mr Clarke's plan to grant pay rises only where there were productivity gains. "How does a nurse become more productive. Does she juggle two bedpans at once?"

Labour would end these double standards and set a new agenda for Britain's working people. "Our charter of employment rights will give all working people basic rights which will come into force from the first day of their employment. We will give the same legal rights to every worker, part-time or full-time, temporary or permanent."

Mr Smith also reaffirmed Labour's strong support for the European social chapter and a national minimum wage. "For our choice is founded on a very simple principle — when people work for a living they should be paid a living wage."

Peter Brookes, page 16



Margaret Beckett with the "other man" in her life, husband Leo, at the conference yesterday.

Brighton puts political marriage to test

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY was kiss and make up time for Margaret Beckett, as her rift with John Smith over reforming the union link threatened a nasty family squabble. She dutifully reported to the television cameras to maintain that it had all been a ghastly mistake.

"I fully support John Smith on one member one vote, as I support his leadership," she said, while still managing to leave the impression that she did not entirely regret her brief fling with her old flames from the hard left.

With her careful grooming and smart business suits, Mrs Beckett looks the epitome of Walworth Road woman. But beneath the glossy cover, she remains very much a creature of the left. Yesterday, as she grudgingly renewed her marriage vows, she insisted that

she was the victim of a misunderstanding. There was a time when she ran no risk of misinterpretation.

In 1981 Mrs Beckett, now 50, was in the forefront of the Bennite campaign to seize the reins of power. At a highly charged Tribune rally on the conference fringe, she brand-

mark every party conference. Recalling their convivial dinner the other night, Mr Beckett said it was "laughable" to suggest that the Labour leader and his deputy were going separate ways.

The headlines were a "nine-day wonder" and masked efforts behind the scenes to find a compromise. "I can see them working on it now," he said as he sat in the hall, watching the whispered politicking among union delegations.

The ticklish matter of one man one vote will be put to the test today on the conference floor. Mrs Beckett's test will come over the weeks and months ahead as she attempts to silence those muttering about a political divorce.

Mr Beckett, 67, was chairman of the local party in Lincoln in 1974 when Margaret (then Jackson) won the seat. He has been at her side ever since, running her office at Westminster and accompanying her on the endless round of evening receptions and fringe meetings that

PERSONALITIES

ed Neil Kinnock a "Judas", and later almost came to blows with Joan Lester. That performance propelled her on to the front pages, and over the next few years she was repeatedly at odds with the leadership.

After returning to the Commons in 1983 as MP for Derby South, she was sacked by Mr Kinnock from her job as a

junior social security spokesman for failing to toe the line over GCHQ.

The other man in her life, Leo, her husband and full-time secretary, was looking on philosophically yesterday as the newspapers trumpeted his wife's disloyalty. "Every conference needs a story. You just

hope it isn't you," he said of the latest furor. Mr Beckett, 67, was chairman of the local party in Lincoln in 1974 when Margaret (then Jackson) won the seat. He has been at her side ever since, running her office at Westminster and accompanying her on the endless round of evening receptions and fringe meetings that

Labour to support single currency

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will today commit itself to a single European currency in a decisive move to strengthen the party's pro-European policy.

A document which is to go to the national executive committee today gives unequivocal support to European monetary union despite the collapse of the exchange-rate mechanism. The move is likely to encourage Euro-sceptics such as Bryan Gould.

A final draft of the report from the Party of European Socialists, which has been seen by *The Times*, will form the backbone of the party's strategy for the European elections next June. The manifesto, agreed by the socialist parties of all EC member states, goes further than the report approved by the NEC in June in its support for monetary union.

"We want economic stability. That is why we want a single currency which all member states can

EUROPE

join," the document says. "This will allow the EC, as a major financial centre, to use its economic strength throughout the world." A single currency would prevent currency speculation, which undermined economic progress, it says. "And to make a success of economic and monetary union, member states must strengthen economic co-ordination."

The new document is part of Labour's determination to maintain the offensive on Europe and foment the Tory mutiny over Maastricht. Over the next few months Labour will renew demands for Britain to reverse its opt-out of the social chapter and use every opportunity to incite the Tory rebels.

Yesterday George Robertson, the party's Europe spokesman, revealed that he would table amendments to the European finance bill, to be introduced in the Queen's Speech. The bill, which will support an increase in EC resources, is required to enact the EC financing package agreed last year in Edinburgh.

Prescott vows to reverse BR sale

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND ROBERT MORGAN

INDUSTRY

LABOUR yesterday committed itself to returning British Rail to public ownership and vied to renationalise British Coal during a morning of dramatically fluctuating fortunes for the Labour leadership. However, plans to take the water industry back into the public sector were dropped in favour of the lesser pledge of "public control".

As the arguments over state control of industry continued to rage in the corridors and bars of the Brighton conference centre, the party grassroots enthusiasm for reversing Tory privatisations appeared little diminished.

Dennis Skinner and John Prescott both won standing ovations with conference-pleasing speeches attacking the rail and coal privatisations, while Arthur Scargill defeated the party leadership with a resolution calling on a Labour government to take the coal industry back into public ownership.

Speakers who called for a return to state ownership of the privatised water companies were also loudly cheered by delegates.

In his speech opening the transport debate Mr Prescott made a "crystal clear" com-

mitment that a Labour government would renationalise a privatised British Rail. The shadow transport secretary was warmly applauded throughout a speech that savaged the government's "obsession" with roads and mocked John MacGregor "and all those miserable secretaries of state before him".

The government's transport policy was driven by the failures of the Treasury, Mr Prescott said. Producing a leaked copy of Mr MacGregor's autumn diary, Mr Prescott said the government planned to announce a motorway toll system around Budget day. "This is not a transport policy but a Treasury tax policy to pay for its massive debts," he said. Rail privatisation would be followed by a plundering of the British Rail pension fund, he warned.

Earlier the carefully worded motion on water, which had the support of the party's national executive, was carried, but disappointed left-wing delegates, who saw it as another retreat from the party's core values.

Chris Smith, the environmental protection spokesman, said the next Labour govern-



Skinner, left, and Prescott won applause for their attacks on privatisation

ment would stop water companies cutting off domestic water supplies because householders cannot afford to pay their bills.

The conference was later set alight by vintage performances from Dennis Skinner, the hard-left MP for Bolsover, and Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, who both demanded a commitment from the party to return the coal indus-

try to public ownership. A motion from Mr Scargill that was carried by conference delegates also reaffirmed Labour's commitment to clause four of its constitution.

The motion will irritate the party leadership, which is anxious not to saddle the party with heavy financial commitments so far from a general election.

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, and his close supporters made unprecedented efforts yesterday at the party conference to swing trade union votes behind him ahead of today's crucial decisions on one member one vote.

Mr Smith and his allies appealed directly to a range of unions to abandon their opposition to him and lodge their votes behind his attempt to apply the principle of one member one vote (Omov) to the selection of local Labour parliamentary candidates.

Late calculations in Brighton last night suggested that those unions supporting Mr Smith's pro-Omov rule change could muster 29.4 per cent of the conference vote, including the knitwear workers who are expected to swing behind him today.

Anti-Omov union votes total 39.4 per cent, though that could decline a little today if the NCU communications union changes its mind and supports Mr Smith — though the union delegation is very tightly balanced.

An indication of the strength of the anti-Omov feeling in the NCU came by its seconding an emergency motion on the conference floor to defer the

Omov issue until next year's conference. The two main anti-Omov unions, the TGWU transport workers and the GMB general union, split on the move — the TGWU supporting it, the GMB against — ensuring that it would be defeated. The move was lost by 54 to 32 per cent.

Guide to the union vote

UP TO 15 votes are expected at the end of today's conference debate on party-union links (Philip Webster writes). But John Smith may have to wait until the last before he knows whether his gamble of staking his authority on the outcome has paid off.

Five votes are crucial:
□ Mr Smith's proposed rule change, allowing unionists who pay the £1.50 political levy to join Labour for £3 and take part in the selection of parliamentary candidates. It is known as "levy-plus."
□ Composite 55: a motion from the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, Mr Smith's strongest allies on this issue, calling for a straight one member one vote system. Likely to be defeated.
□ Composite 56: A compro-

mise from the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, which could help Mr Smith. This says that trade unionists can opt on a fairly agreed basis to take part in selections. If it passes Mr Smith interpret it as meaning they will have to pay up before voting.

□ Composite 57: John Edmonds will move the GMB general union's motion that will allow trade unionists who support Labour to have up to a third of the votes in selections. Crucially, they would not have to join the party.
□ Composite 58: Bill Morris, of the transport workers, will move his motion effectively taking Labour to the old electoral college, giving unions up to 40 per cent of the vote.

Behind the scenes, leaders of the GMB and TGWU met to discuss their strategy on today's voting while Mr Smith personally saw Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the GPMU printworkers, to try to pull in its 117,000 votes. GPMU leaders were meeting last night but looked unlikely to shift from opposing Omov. Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, met the knitwear workers' delegation, while Rodney Bickerstaffe and Tom Sawyer, the leaders of the public employees' union Nupe, met the NCU. These over attempts at persuasion were unprecedented by such senior figures.

The 634 local constituency parties could hold the key to the outcome of the string of votes on the issue today. Nobody at Brighton has any real idea of how their votes will split, though results of polling carried out by the BBC, which were circulating at the conference, suggested that about half would support Omov, with a third against it and the rest undecided.

Even headline Omov supporters were accepting last night that the constituencies would be unlikely to deliver a higher vote than this for Mr Smith. If only half the constituency votes — 15 per cent of the total conference vote — go in favour of Omov, both sides accept that this is unlikely to be enough to secure victory for Mr Smith.

Mr Smith's team remains confident about the outcome of today's voting.

Vote on Labour reforms

Final push to swing union support

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, and his close supporters made unprecedented efforts yesterday at the party conference to swing trade union votes behind him ahead of today's crucial decisions on one member one vote.

Mr Smith and his allies appealed directly to a range of unions to abandon their opposition to him and lodge their votes behind his attempt to apply the principle of one member one vote (Omov) to the selection of local Labour parliamentary candidates.

Late calculations in Brighton last night suggested that those unions supporting Mr Smith's pro-Omov rule change could muster 29.4 per cent of the conference vote, including the knitwear workers who are expected to swing behind him today.

Anti-Omov union votes total 39.4 per cent, though that could decline a little today if the NCU communications union changes its mind and supports Mr Smith — though the union delegation is very tightly balanced.

An indication of the strength of the anti-Omov feeling in the NCU came by its seconding an emergency motion on the conference floor to defer the

Omov issue until next year's conference. The two main anti-Omov unions, the TGWU transport workers and the GMB general union, split on the move — the TGWU supporting it, the GMB against — ensuring that it would be defeated. The move was lost by 54 to 32 per cent.

Guide to the union vote

UP TO 15 votes are expected at the end of today's conference debate on party-union links (Philip Webster writes). But John Smith may have to wait until the last before he knows whether his gamble of staking his authority on the outcome has paid off.

Five votes are crucial:
□ Mr Smith's proposed rule change, allowing unionists who pay the £1.50 political levy to join Labour for £3 and take part in the selection of parliamentary candidates. It is known as "levy-plus."
□ Composite 55: a motion from the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, Mr Smith's strongest allies on this issue, calling for a straight one member one vote system. Likely to be defeated.
□ Composite 56: A compro-

mise from the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, which could help Mr Smith. This says that trade unionists can opt on a fairly agreed basis to take part in selections. If it passes Mr Smith interpret it as meaning they will have to pay up before voting.

□ Composite 57: John Edmonds will move the GMB general union's motion that will allow trade unionists who support Labour to have up to a third of the votes in selections. Crucially, they would not have to join the party.
□ Composite 58: Bill Morris, of the transport workers, will move his motion effectively taking Labour to the old electoral college, giving unions up to 40 per cent of the vote.

Behind the scenes, leaders of the GMB and TGWU met to discuss their strategy on today's voting while Mr Smith personally saw Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the GPMU printworkers, to try to pull in its 117,000 votes. GPMU leaders were meeting last night but looked unlikely to shift from opposing Omov. Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, met the knitwear workers' delegation, while Rodney Bickerstaffe and Tom Sawyer, the leaders of the public employees' union Nupe, met the NCU. These over attempts at persuasion were unprecedented by such senior figures.

The 634 local constituency parties could hold the key to the outcome of the string of votes on the issue today. Nobody at Brighton has any real idea of how their votes will split, though results of polling carried out by the BBC, which were circulating at the conference, suggested that about half would support Omov, with a third against it and the rest undecided.

Even headline Omov supporters were accepting last night that the constituencies would be unlikely to deliver a higher vote than this for Mr Smith. If only half the constituency votes — 15 per cent of the total conference vote — go in favour of Omov, both sides accept that this is unlikely to be enough to secure victory for Mr Smith.

Mr Smith's team remains confident about the outcome of today's voting.

Western force ready to police peace deal after uneasy vote in Sarajevo

Muslims poised to set their seal on Bosnia partition

By JOEL BRANTZ IN SARAJEVO AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Bosnian Muslims yesterday edged tantalisingly close to accepting a peace deal that would divide the country into three ethnic states. Optimism at an agreement could be seen soon rose after vital votes in the Bosnian parliament.

The Bosnian parliament decided the peace plan last night after leading Muslims decided to give the proposals conditional acceptance. The assembly of influential Muslims decided to advise parliament to agree to the plan provided territories seized by force were returned. This partial acceptance was dubbed a "yes, if no" vote.

The majority of the 350 parliamentary deputies, military, civic and religious leaders voted for conditional acceptance of the plan, but their demands amounted to rejection. However, the Bosnian cabinet, which has kept the plan without the conditions. Fourteen cabinet members sought only for international guarantees from Nato and the UN for the implementation of the plan.

As hopes for a peace agreement increased, Nato govern-

ments were faced with the prospect of having to mount a large-scale expeditionary force before the end of the year to keep the warring factions apart. The proposed 50,000-man peacekeeping force is expected to be armed with tanks, artillery and helicopter gunships, after a warning from the Nato commander who will lead them that the UN peacekeepers must be prepared to fight.

Nato officials who have spent the summer producing contingency planning for Bosnia have just been waiting for a peace deal to be signed and a request for help from the UN before putting the plan into action. Although there are still uncertainties about financing, command and control, and precise troop contributions from Nato and non-Nato countries, there appears to be agreement that a "beefed-up" force will be needed.

Admiral Jeremy Boorda, the American officer who commands Nato forces in southern Europe and is expected to head the alliance force in Bosnia, issued a warning last week that he could not do the job properly unless troops went in prepared to fight. He said Nato's approach had to be "bigger, tougher and stronger than they are". Nato planners are still working on the assumption that the United States will send 25,000 troops.

Britain is in line for supplying a brigade-sized force which could range from 6,000-10,000 soldiers. Although there will be political pressure to keep the deployment to a minimum because of cost and the strain on army manpower, military chiefs are likely to recommend a full-sized and properly armed brigade. That could consist of three infantry battalions, equipped with Warrior and Saxon armoured vehicles, an armoured reconnaissance squadron, a regiment of artillery, a squadron

of helicopters and possibly a squadron of 14 Challenger 1 tanks. All three warring factions have tanks, although mostly old Russian T55s. British and allied tanks would provide the ultimate deterrent to warlords tempted to take on the peacekeepers.

The British contribution would also consist of headquarters staff from Nato's rapid reaction corps which is expected to be given its first operational mission at the heart of the peacekeeping force. The corps is commanded by a British officer, Lieutenant General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie.

Peace flight: Two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters from 845 Squadron flew to Sarajevo for the first time yesterday, carrying delegates to the Bosnian parliament to vote on the peace plan.



Police guarding the heavily damaged Holiday Inn in Sarajevo where the Bosnian parliament was meeting to vote on plans to partition the country

Hurd puts limits on peacekeeping

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN joined the United States yesterday in placing strict limits on future United Nations peacekeeping operations, but offered to provide civilian monitors to help prevent future conflicts.

In a downbeat speech to the UN General Assembly, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, echoed President Clinton's assertion on Monday that the UN is not a "magic wand".

He said: "I do not believe that an international organisation which is not a colonising power will ever be able to guarantee solutions to civil wars, nor even to that pernicious variant of a civil war which we see today in Bosnia." But the UN can be helped to greatly improve on its record," Mr Hurd said. "With greater experience and resources for preventive action and effectively co-ordinated humanitarian efforts, it can act before the situation gets out of control."

Despite months of arguing that US troops should join British peacekeepers serving with the UN force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr Hurd said that Washington was right not

to send its troops all over the world. Like Mr Clinton, he emphasised the need for a better definition of the objectives of future peacekeeping missions, a sign that Britain also has reservations about sending troops to implement any peace accord in Bosnia. "Any operation must have clear and achievable objectives linked to a political process which offers reasonable hope of a solution and to which all parties should be committed," he said. "The mandate must be precise and finite."

Mr Hurd proposed that the UN peacekeeping office in New York should be strengthened with what he called a "General Staff for Peacekeeping", made up of civilian and military staff responsible for strategic planning.

Emphasising the value of pre-empting potential conflicts, he also joined with France in offering to provide personnel, equipment and information for future UN "preventive diplomacy". He said he was not talking about "big wigs" but about "people on the ground in jeeps and Land-Rovers".



Mackenzie will lead British peace force

Broken republic risks future of myriad pieces

■ A key chapter of the Bosnian war has ended, with the great battles for territories over. Next on the agenda is internecine struggle

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE vote by leading Muslims to accept the partition plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina on condition that "territories seized by force" be returned has sent an ambiguous message to the world. As Croats and Serbs have said that they will yield no more territory to the future Muslim "Bosnian Republic", then the vote, likely to be followed by a similar decision in the republic's parliament, could be tantamount to a rejection.

Serb politicians fear that as they have already been forced to cede considerable tracts of territory to the people they have defeated, then this has only whetted the Muslim appetite for more. But all sides are well versed in the art of Balkan doublespeak. If parliament also votes to accept with conditions all sides could still sign the deal.

The "let-out clause" that would enable the Muslims to sign the partition deal is enshrined in the Serbo-Bosnian agreement of September 16. Under the terms of that landmark deal, President Izetbegovic effectively agreed that the Bosnian Serb state could secede and join Serbia. But the condition is that the Serbs can only go once they settle all outstanding territorial claims.

According to this agreement, a working group is to be set up to discuss the disputed areas. So a mechanism already exists for the Bosnians to move towards a final signature on the deal and for the Serbs to secede at a later date. But, in the words of President Izetbegovic, "we hold the key". If the Bosnian parliamentary decision means that the partition deal is not

to be signed, then Serb and Muslim leaders may shed less tears than one might expect. They know that, however tough the winter, the international aid agencies will be there to stave off mass starvation.

There is also a new development. The Bosnian Serbs have begun to help the Muslims fight the Croats. According to United Nations sources, this includes selling the Muslims arms in the Mostar area. In other regions, the Serbs are still helping the Croats. So the Muslims are, with Serb help, gaining territory from the Croats while the Serbs sit back as their enemies fight each other.

If the Muslims do not sign, the advantage for the Serbs is that they do have to give the territory they have promised to cede and they have already threatened to rescind all the concessions they have already made.

Whether or not the Bosnian parliament decides to endorse the partition plan, a key chapter of the Bosnian war has ended. The great battles for territory, at least with the Serbs, and violent mass "ethnic cleansing" are over. The next chapter is internecine struggle, with the internal political splintering of the Serb, Muslim and Croat communities and strife between regional power centres.

The areas that are to become the predominantly Muslim "Bosnian Republic" have already dissolved into city states and enclaves all with very different political hues. Divisions also bubble beneath the surface. The question is: "What sort of state do we want?"

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CONSULTANCY & SERVICES

France loses its talent for dreaming up grand ideas



Depardieu: star of the new film *Germinal*

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FOR the past millennium, French ideas have surely done as much as any to enrich civilisation and needle other people into looking at the world differently. Lately, they have been doing such a good job on the provocation side that it might be worth pondering how the thinking classes of France can reach conclusions so different from those beyond their frontiers.

If you doubt that France is different, ask yourself where else the chattering classes would be hailing Sir James Goldsmith as an intellectual genius, cursing US imperialism, flocking to a blockbuster film about the class struggle and lamenting that the Olympics did not go to Peking.

Official France wanted China for the Olympics and the choice of Sydney was depicted as yet another victory for the Anglo-Saxons. This came in the midst of the crusade to defend France against what the political classes and public opinion see as a diabolical plot by the Americans and their British lackeys to rob France of its farms, jobs

and very identity. Mention the Galt acronym in a British, German or American bar and you will get a yawn or a blank stare. Try it out in a French gathering and you will ignite a chorus of patriotic indignation. Sir James, the Anglo-French tycoon, comes in as the author of *Le Piège* (The Trap), a work in which he reveals his conversion to a millennial small-is-beautiful philosophy. This born-again Rousseau hails the French peasant as agent of salvation against "mondialisation", the current buzzword for the evils of a homogenised world dominated by American-led culture.

For all the Cassandras lamenting the end of "l'exception française", as General de Gaulle called the prerogative of grandeur, France is actually doing a solid job at defending its separateness. It is able to do so because of the enduring power of its language and history and a still rigorous system of education. Enter France and you go through more of a culture warp than anywhere else in

Europe. For all the inroads of American commerce, France has managed to keep its distance. For example, political correctness, which France has been spared, can be freely ridiculed as a new Stalinism, and the ultra-sober *Le Monde* can devote front-page analysis to the music of Prince as an exotic phenomenon.

On the other side of the Channel, Britain is so plugged into US "infotainment" that, in the words of Jacques Toubon, the Gaullist culture minister, it has become a branch of the US home market.

M. Mitterrand, the Socialist president, and Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist prime minister, and all the chattering classes may be on the defensive, but they are still convinced that much of the world looks to Paris as an alternative model. The trouble, however, is that no one really knows what the model offers. This explains why so much behaviour seems to be simply negative.

The most immediate cause is a political one: the end of the Cold War, an event which M. Mitterrand was so loath to accept that he

misread the signals and tried to keep Germany divided and Russia Soviet. As long as the Soviet Kremlin was there, France could use it as a touchstone. Its demise robbed Paris of its role as an alternative to the East-West poles. Coming with the discrediting of Socialism at home, it stripped references from a mental landscape which had existed since the revolution of 1789. For generations, the intellectual classes subscribed to the general idea the rights of man were best served by a theoretical model. Roughly, this was the play between the citizen and a patriarchal central power which knew what was best for him or her and risked overthrow for getting it wrong. It happened to fit in with Marxism and other millennial creeds as well as Pétainism in the wartime occupation, and it fuelled the intellectuals from revolutionary days to the post-marxists of the Left Bank in the 1960s. As Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, the historian, has been pointing out, the old pact between central power and the peasant explains the emotional support for the farmers in recent

months. It also accounts for the support for the biggest unreformed communist party in the West.

Thinkers from the late Raymond Aron in the 1960s to André Glucksmann in the 1980s did good business selling the French equivalent of neo-conservatism. The money culture hit France in the Eighties, along with everywhere else and a decade after the rightward shift elsewhere, this year it elected a conservative government. But France has never been happy with the messy approach of the Anglo-Saxons, in which society is left to regulate itself. The recent triumph of "liberalism", as France calls the free-trading, pragmatic Anglo-Saxon model, unsettles the Gallic mind. As a little symptom of this you will rarely hear French negotiators talking about level playing fields. When they want to invoke the notion of "fair play", they borrow the English words. For all its liberal policies the Balladur-Mitterrand regime still exerts much tighter control over citizens' lives than that of any other Western power and no-one is complaining. In this France which has lost its

bearings and its talent for dreaming up grand ideas, it is easy to understand the hankering after the old certainties, such as those to be found in *Germinal*, Claude Berli's new blockbuster of Zola's chronicle of the workers' struggle of the 19th century. The intellectual pulpit greased the epic with a sile conclusion: things were awry in the mines, but at least there were ideas which gave hope for a better world. Now, they say, no-one has the answers.

Before France's intellectual anarchy, M. Mitterrand went to lie for the premiere on Monday, and said his film showed that "there was more hope at the end of the 19th century than there is now". Gerard Depardieu and the rest of the cast, and a cohort of singers, politicians, media stars and celebs from the subsidised intellectual world were whisked to the deale north for the showing on a "V high-speed express. On board, 20 philosophised about Galt, the workers' misery and the lack of new ideas over a menu of champagne, lobster, salmon, foie gras. M. Mitterrand took another 10

Georgians pledge to take back Sukhumi

■ Eduard Shevardnadze has retreated to Tbilisi under fire on a plane packed with his wounded soldiers. In the face of defeat, he is promising that the fight will go on

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, pledged yesterday that Georgia will one day retake Sukhumi, the city that fell to Abkhazian rebels on Monday after an 11-day siege. "If this generation is unable to do it, the next one will certainly do so," he said. His words presage decades of warfare in this part of the Caucasus, and Western observers consider such a scenario all too likely.

Mr Shevardnadze flew back to Tbilisi yesterday from Sukhumi airport, which is still in Georgian hands. His plane, packed with wounded Georgian soldiers, had to dodge fire from an Abkhaz gunboat. The rebels had shot down two Georgian aircraft in the past week and closed the airport to Georgian reinforcements. Mr Shevardnadze had promised to remain in Abkhazia until the last of the 20,000 Georgian refugees had been moved from the region.

Thousands of these were evacuated by Russian landing craft yesterday from the coast south of Sukhumi. Mr Shevardnadze, however, returned after the urgent appeal of the Georgian government and the Patriarch of the Georgian Orthodox Church, who virtually ordered him to come back.

There has been no independent confirmation yet of Georgian claims that the Abkhazians have massacred hundreds of Georgian civil-

ians in the captured city. The Georgian embassy in Moscow also claimed that the Abkhazians have killed Zhiuli Shartava, the chief Georgian administrator in Abkhazia, whom they had taken prisoner in Sukhumi.

The desperation of the Georgian government for Mr Shevardnadze's return is easy to understand. It faces a threat of a march on Tbilisi by supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president. Last Friday, he had returned from exile to his west Georgian stronghold of Zugdidi, from where he promised to topple what he branded the "Shevardnadze junta". Mr Gamsakhurdia was deposed in the December 1991 coup that brought Mr Shevardnadze to power.

Before the fall of Sukhumi, Mr Gamsakhurdia's support was restricted to the western region of Mingrelia, the birthplace of his family. Mr Shevardnadze is now widely blamed for military defeat, and still more for agreeing to the Russian-sponsored ceasefire on July 28 that gave the Abkhazians their chance.

Mr Shevardnadze hinted that he might be willing to face elections against Mr Gamsakhurdia to settle the power struggle.

□ True offer: Abkhazian separatist leaders said last night they were ready to stop fighting. Georgian government troops. (AFP)



Pro and anti-Yeltsin supporters scuffling yesterday outside the Russian parliament, where hardliners were given an ultimatum to surrender

Pushkin stalks behind the barricades

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

FEW sights have been more bathetic during the Moscow melodrama of the past week than that of a balding deputy, in his shapeless jacket, reading a Pushkin poem about the treachery of a faithless lover to a darkened hall as it gradually emptied of colleagues prepared to continue their defence of the White House.

Culture is again being brandished as a weapon in the battle for Russia, with 19th-century quotations about holy Russian soil and the God-fearing state being dusted down and spouted reverently by opponents of President Yeltsin.

While the parliamentary rebels are facing ignominious defeat they are determined to style themselves as latter-day heroes as they go down. Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary Speaker, portrays himself in the Decembrist tradition, rising against an autocratic regime and prepared to face incarceration for his beliefs. Asked what he thought his personal fate would be, he said: "I will probably end up in prison but I am prepared to risk this to defend Russia."

Aleksandr Rutskoy, the self-appointed president, has gone one step further, saying that he will "fight to the very end" on the barricades of the White House, although if the drain of supporters continues at its present rate his will be a lonely last battle.

The diehard defenders have invoked the siege spirit of the second world war with placards reading "Remember Stalingrad" and rhetoric about their "fascist oppressors". At night they sustain themselves with ready patriotic communist choruses.

Mr Yeltsin also has an affinity for the grand themes of bygone times. On Sunday he basked in a rendering by Mstislav Rostropovich of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture performed in Red Square with the help of cannon fire and the Kremlin bells to evoke a victorious imperial past. He has often presented himself in the mould of master of the large and unruly estates caricatured by Chekhov.

This time, however, he has decided on a more pragmatic approach. Realising that he cannot count on overwhelming displays of public support from a population preoccupied with economic difficulties and unenthusiastic about demonstrations as the cold weather begins to bite, he has dispensed with myth-making.

His last television appearance, in which he rejected compromise, was devoid of presidential pomp. Instead, he stood outside the Kremlin explaining that there would be no deal, in the calm, implacable manner of a Western leader handling a tiresome but ultimately doomed opposition threat.

All this makes a virtue out of



Khasbulatov: adjusting his bullet-proof jacket yesterday

necessity as Russia's democratic movement is in a sorry state. Mr Yeltsin made clear that he could not run the country and run for election at the same time. He is clearly aware that his own cause is shaky and that he will need to breathe new life into his campaign if he is to win a presidential

vote convincingly enough to keep the upper hand through his race of dissolving parliament when it least expected it. Emergency decrees can be enforced with the back-up of interior ministry troops, but elections are not so easily won.

The intelligentsia who came out for Mr Yeltsin in 1991 and again, if less spontaneously, in the April referendum have played next to no role this time. Many are bitter at Mr Yeltsin's cavalier treatment of their support, and many democrats also feel that he has failed to give them their due while in office.

One of his big mistakes as president has been to neglect the grassroots workers who built him up as a potential leader. He has constructed no democratic party apparatus, preferring the company of legal strategists such as Sergei Shakhrai and a close-knit group of unaccountable advisers.

Writers and intellectuals, used to being courted by regimes, have been treated with scant respect. This does not bother a leader who believes that the sword is mightier than the pen and devotes his time and energy to courting the military and security services rather than the scribblers. But sooner or later he will need a broader social fanfare to usher him back into the Kremlin, and it is far from certain whether this will be forthcoming.

Surrender call, page 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peking displays hardline tactics

Hong Kong: Peking has indulged in harassment of nationalists and a wave of executions in the run-up to National Day next Fri (Jonathan Mirsky writ). Those executed included: bezzlers, murderers, rap and secret society members. The shootings, typically single bullet in the back of head, have been carried from Siquan in the south to Shenzhen just over border from Hong Kong. Among those shot were: accountants who used Chin chaotic banking system; steal \$5.7 million (£ million); Xi Yang, a reporter for the respected Hong Kong newspaper Ming Pao, arrested and accused of espionage regarding state secret in banking. The fact that had just had published laudatory interview with Deng Xiaoping's handicapped son, Deng Pufang, made observers think that the authorities were misinformed who agreeing to the arrest.

Poles agree

Warsaw: The two top group in Poland's September 19 election, the former Communist Democratic Left Alliance and the Peasants' Party, its parli mentary ally under communism, have tentatively agreed to form a coalition government. (AP)

Industry vow

Bonn: Leaders of Germany's key metalworking and electrical industries announced they plan to renegotiate collective labour agreements to counter the worst recession since the second world war. Unions were quick to condemn the move. (AFP)

Neutral shift

Brussels: Thomas Klestil, the Austrian president, said his country would drop its traditional neutrality if it joined the European Community and would play a full role in defence policy. Membership negotiations were started last year. (AP)

Blast kills 51

Caracas: A natural gas pipeline exploded alongside a busy road near the Venezuelan capital during the morning rush hour, killing at least 51 people, including 33 who were burnt to death in a bus, and injuring 15, according to police reports. (Reuters)

Kravchuk acts

Kiev: President Kravchuk appointed a committee of economic reformers and conservatives to consolidate his pledge to speed reform and overcome Ukraine's economic crisis. New ministers will be named soon. (Reuters)

Left cleared

Rome: An Italian anti-corruption investigation has cleared the former communist Democratic Party of the Left of amassing funds in Swiss bank accounts for use as bribes. The accounts were owned by two Christian Democrats. (AFP)

Liquid assets

Paris: The appeals court in Paris ordered President Mobutu of Zaire to pay win and champagne bills dating from 1991, totalling £285,000 to the French Dugats company. The president had claimed the bills were the state's responsibility. (AFP)

Paris tones down bellicose trade talk

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

IN THE aftermath of the trade talks between the United States and the European Community in Washington this week, Paris and Brussels appear to hold different views on the outcome.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EC's chief trade negotiator, returned to Brussels yesterday after a trip that involved more theatre than substance. He had gone to Washington to present Mickey Kantor, his American counterpart, with a list of French fears about the 1992 Blair House deal on cutting farm support.

He may have come back empty-handed, but Paris reacted as though a breakthrough was in the making. Alain Juppé, the foreign minister, called the outcome, in which Mr Kantor failed to concede any European de-

mands, a cause for optimism. His ministry called it a "positive first meeting", and Jean Puech, the agriculture minister, said: "What is important now is not the public statements of Mr Kantor but the content of continuing talks with the United States."

Sir Leon told the European parliament in Strasbourg yesterday: "I left him [Mr Kantor] in no doubt as to the strength of feeling."

With the solid support of governments such as Britain and The Netherlands and less consistent help from Germany, he will try to keep French disruption at bay while applying pressure for the treaty to be concluded before the deadline. Unless France persuades other EC governments to change his instructions, Sir Leon need not

extract any farm concessions from Mr Kantor until the last few days of talks.

Sir Leon's room for manoeuvre depends on the German government's help in discouraging France from wrecking the deal by leaving a *chaire vide* (empty chair) at EC meetings. French and senior American officials are pinning their hopes for progress in ministerial meetings, such as that expected between M Juppé and Mr Kantor in Washington this week.

Diplomats speculate that a compromise might be arranged in which America would accept some French demands for making the deal more flexible over the sale of subsidised Community exports in return for which Europe would give greater access to some US products.

Naples rises up over war history

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AS THE fiftieth anniversary of the second world war uprising of the people of Naples against the Nazis was celebrated yesterday, the city angrily rejected a new book claiming the legendary insurrection was a myth greatly embroidered by the left.

The battle for the southern city began on September 28, 1943, and prepared the way for the entry by allied troops on October 1. The event was enshrined in the popular imagination by the film director Nanni Loy's classic *The Four Days of Naples*.

Now Enzo Erra, a right-wing historian, has outraged veterans of the uprising with his new book, *Napoli 1943*. In it he seeks to debunk what he

sees as a myth propagated by the Italian Communist Party. He says that only a few hundred insurgents took part against a mere 200 to 250 German troops.

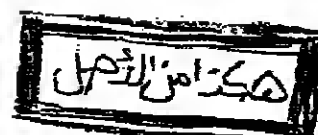
This revisionist version has, of course, been challenged. Among others, Loy does not contest Erra's figures but argues that statistics do not tell the whole epic story. "I have read the latest book... but to establish the extent and moral importance of the four days only by numerical calculation of who took up a rifle is absolutely misguided," he said. "One has to consider the support and help they had from the rest of the population. This determines the character of a liberation struggle."

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US seeks political isolation of Aidid

Washington is tacitly admitting that the military operation against the fugitive warlord has failed. Pressure from Congress and in Somalia is forcing a change of tack

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton administration is to cut back its efforts to capture General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the Somali warlord, American officials said yesterday. It will instead seek to isolate him by striving for a new political settlement in Somalia, in which he would have no role.

The change of strategy is a clear admission of failure, but one driven by the urgent need to assuage Somali antagonism towards US troops and to persuade an increasingly disenchanted Congress that involvement in Somalia is finite.

According to *The New York Times*, President Clinton told Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, of the depth of congressional opposition during a private meeting in New York on Monday, when he gave his maiden address to the general assembly. Mr Clinton said that, without swift progress towards peace in Somalia, he would have trouble winning congressional approval for participation in a Bosnian peacekeeping mission.

A UN military official in Mogadishu, reacting to the report, said there had been no change of orders from headquarters in New York. The Senate, in a clear signal of its displeasure, last week approved a resolution urging Mr Clinton to state his objectives in Somalia by October 15 and to seek congressional approval for keeping troops there by November 15. The House is expected to follow

suit within days. American forces have been trying to capture General Aidid since a UN Security Council resolution in June that called for the arrest of those responsible for the deaths of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers in a Mogadishu ambush.

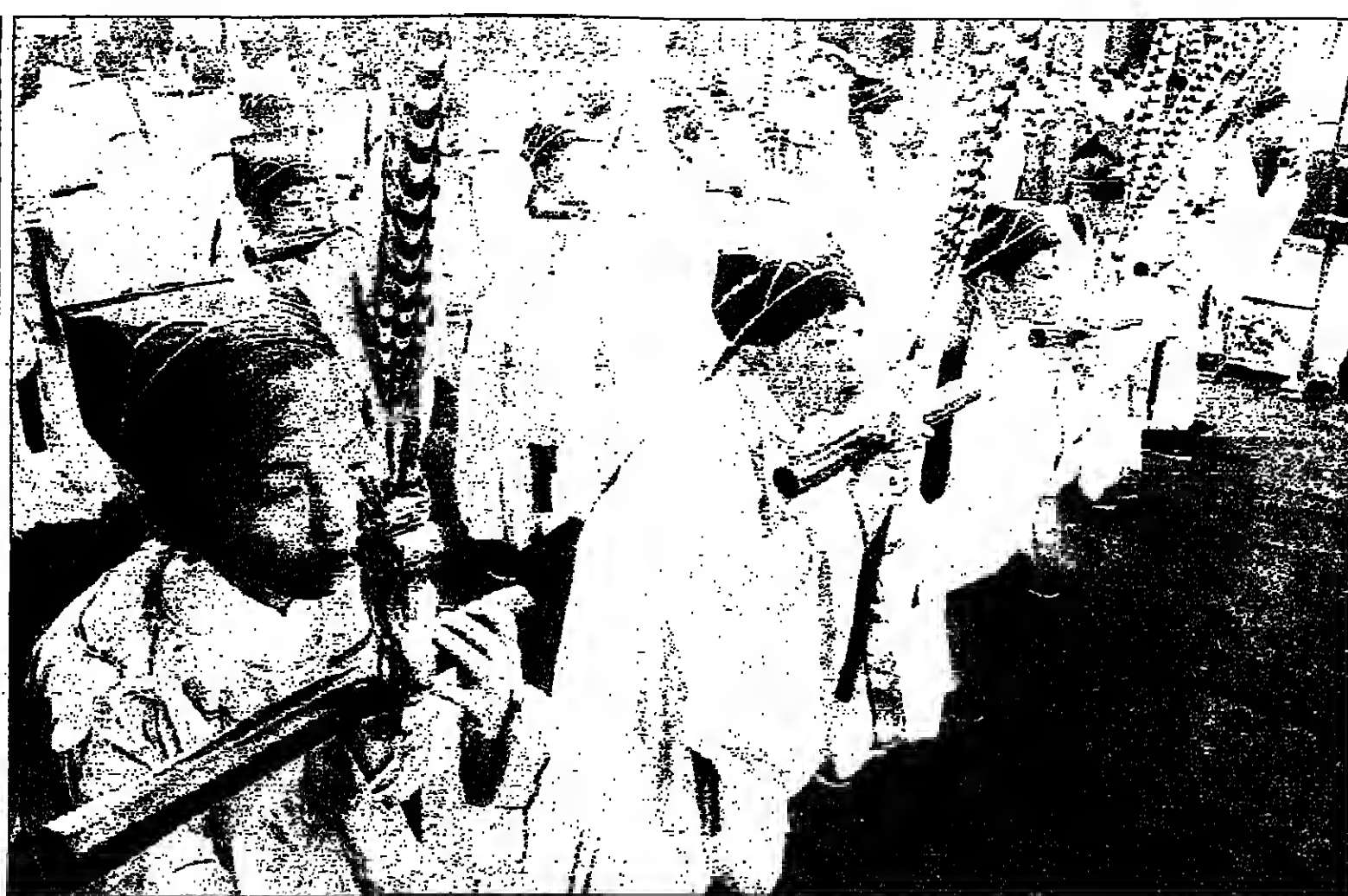
In August, America intensified its efforts by sending 400 Army Rangers and some Delta Force commandos to Mogadishu, but General Aidid has remained at large and US forces have been sucked deeper into urban guerrilla combat in which the warlord's militia-men have had all the advantages. Eleven American soldiers have been killed in the Somalia operation, more than 60 have been wounded, and there have been a series of botched raids based on erroneous intelligence.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, is reported to have outlined the new American strategy to isolate General Aidid in a paper he presented to Dr Boutros Ghali last week. Senior administration officials have emphasised the urgent need to develop a political solution.

Mr Christopher urged the UN to convene a conference for national reconciliation in Somalia next month to which all factions, save General Aidid's, would be invited. He suggested that the UN urge Ethiopia and Eritrea to continue to persuade General Aidid to accept their offers of safe haven, and that it challenge the warlord to follow through on his offer to Jimmy Carter, the former president, to accept the judgment of a special UN investigative commission.

America is also alarmed at the way that the Somali operation has been presented to the world. The administration has reportedly asked for a shake-up of the UN public affairs office.

To give the operation less of an American flavour, it wants a non-American to be appointed chief spokesman in Mogadishu instead of David Stockwell, and the creation of a high-profile Friends of Somalia group, comprising all countries contributing troops to the operation or with other interests in the country.



Taiwanese schoolchildren staging a traditional ceremony in Taipei yesterday to mark the birth of the sage Confucius 2,543 years ago

Jordanian ministers give poll go-ahead

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ABDEL Salam Majali, the Jordanian prime minister, announced yesterday that the first multi-party parliamentary elections for 37 years would take place as scheduled on November 8.

A government source had said earlier that the cabinet had recommended the postponement of the polls in the wake of the deal between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel on Palestinian autonomy. But Mr Majali said that postponement of the election was not necessary.

A senior Jordanian official said the election announcement was a "big surprise". King Hussein said in Amman at the weekend that he was seriously considering postponing the election because of questions raised by the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord. More than 1.7 million Palestinian refugees live in Jordan, up to 40 per cent of the kingdom's population, and negotiations are to be held to discuss the return of those who fled after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

PLO vice Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, is to visit Britain, France and Germany during the next two weeks, an organisation official said in Amman yesterday.

Pressure grows on Gaddafi as UN sanctions deadline nears

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT, IN CAIRO

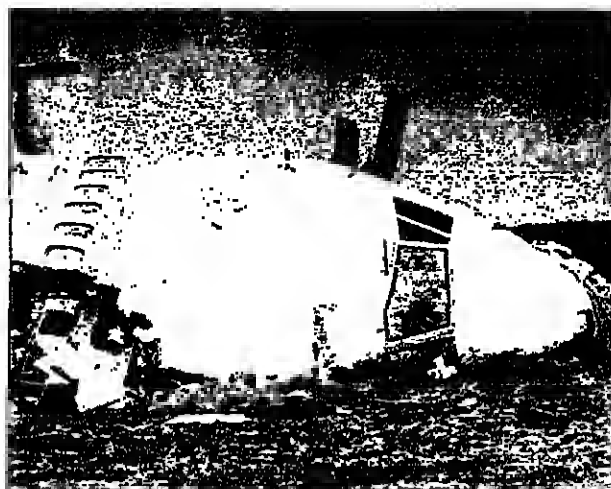
COLONEL Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, faces further economic dislocation at home and increased diplomatic isolation abroad if he fails to meet Friday's deadline for handing over the two Lockerbie suspects for trial in the West.

The proposed tightening of United Nations sanctions, which fall far short of the full oil embargo that would quickly bring Libya to its knees and which is being resisted by some European governments, will increase pressure on an economy weakened but not yet crippled by penalties imposed in April last year.

In addition to the restrictions on international flights, arms purchases and diplomatic representation in force since then, the new measures cover the banning of the supply of equipment to the oil industry, including gas turbines and electric motors, and the freezing of Tripoli's international assets.

Colonel Gaddafi's fear of the new proposals has been demonstrated by the recent flurry of contradictory Libyan suggestions about venues for the trial of the two Lockerbie suspects, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Almen Khalifa Fhimah, who remain under house arrest in Tripoli.

Throughout this affair, Gaddafi has been playing for



The shattered cockpit of Pan Am Flight 103 near Lockerbie, Scotland. A bomb on board killed 270 people

time, because he is caught in a dilemma that it is impossible for him to escape from painlessly," said one Tripoli-based diplomat. "He knows that his own security services oppose surrendering the men and that they will exact revenge on him if he tries to do so."

Colonel Gaddafi's number two, Major Abdel Jaloud, leader of Libya's revolutionary committees, is also head of the tribe to which one of the two suspects belongs, and has long opposed any compromise with the UN demands. With the exception of Egypt, which continues to act as middle-

man, most Arab governments have lost patience with the Libyan leader. His isolation and growing regional irrelevance were increased on September 10 when he opposed the new Israeli-PLO peace accord which has majority backing in the 21-member Arab League. It was, Colonel Gaddafi declared, "one of the comedies of history, and should be considered as an object of ridicule and farce".

Although Libya claims that more than 800 people died in an internal air disaster and numerous road accidents it blames on the sanctions, life

has continued much as normal inside the country, because of continuing road links with Tunisia and Egypt, and the hydrofoil service to Malta. But billions of dollars in revenues have been forfeited and the ban on spare parts has increased the risk of flying with Libyan Arab Airlines.

In the past Colonel Gaddafi has successfully used the threats over the Lockerbie affair to shore up his battered domestic image as a leader prepared to stand up to the West. The tactic was in evidence again in the tense countdown to the October 1 deadline, when the official paper, *Al Sham*, called for Libyans to declare holy war on America and Britain to avenge those killed in the 1986 air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi.

"Our nerves are stretched, and we cannot bear more," said the paper, comparing the accusation over Lockerbie with the 1986 claim that Libyan terrorists had blown up a Berlin night club frequented by US soldiers. "We should now declare war on America and Britain."

Behind the rhetoric lies the frustration of a dictatorship which had hoped to find President Clinton more compromising than his predecessors. But at present, the threat facing Tripoli is economic rather than military.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murdoch calls off New York paper bid

New York: Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, announced yesterday that he was ending his bid to buy *The New York Post* after one of its unions went on strike and production unions refused to cross picket lines, with the result that yesterday's edition failed to reach the presses (Ben Macintyre writes). The newspaper has repeatedly faced closure and bankruptcy in recent years and Mr Murdoch's decision to withdraw from a deal to buy it may finally signal the runny tabloid's demise.

On Monday the Newspaper Guild, representing 287 newsroom, advertising and clerical workers, set up a picket line which the paper's drivers and pressmen later agreed to honour. The guild, claiming it was being unfairly victimised, was the only union not to agree on a contract with Mr Murdoch.

Toll tops 9,000

Johannesburg: More than 9,000 people have died in political violence in South Africa and twice as many have been injured since July 1990, according to the Human Rights Commission, which has close links to the African National Congress.

Crash kills 14

Rabat: A crowded Moroccan passenger train burst into flames when a tanker train loaded with naphtha rammed it as it waited at Temara station, near Rabat. At least 14 people were killed and 80 hurt. First reports said a stop signal was ignored. (Reuters)

Strike ends

Delhi: India's long-haul lorry drivers called off their 13-day strike after the government hinted that licence fees would be cut. Union officials said that the end to the strike, which led to one death and hit Indian industry and exports, was unconditional. (Reuters)

Ex-leader sues

Bangkok: General Chatichai Choonhavan, the former Thai prime minister who was deposed in a coup in 1991, has sued the government, demanding that it return more than £6.5 million in assets seized by an anti-corruption commission. (Reuters)

War hero dies

Pebble Beach: General James Doolittle, who led the first US air raid on Tokyo in the second world war, died on Monday at his California home. He was 96 and had suffered a stroke earlier this month. (Reuters)

Obituary, page 19

Congressional panel applauds Clinton presidency's greatest asset

First Lady eclipses her predecessors in dazzling performance on Capitol Hill

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

Hillary Rodham Clinton made a little bit of history yesterday morning. She not only became the third First Lady ever to testify before a congressional committee, but also the first to appear as chief spokeswoman for the single most important piece of legislation of her husband's presidency.

Mrs Clinton went before the House ways and means committee to discuss the health care reform plan, but she did not stop there. In the afternoon she appeared before the House energy and commerce committee. Eclipsing Rosalynn Carter's sole appearance to discuss mental health in 1979, and Eleanor Roosevelt's two appearances on migrant labour and civilian defence in the 1940s, Mrs Clinton will do two more committees today, and another one tomorrow.

Last year Mrs Clinton was denounced as "Iron-nazi" and "Lady Macbeth" and considered a liability by her husband's campaign advisers. This year she came to be seen as the administration's greatest asset, and it was not hard yesterday to see why. Quite simply, she dazzled. "It's been a real personal pleasure for me to get to know many of you personally and to work with you," she told the beaming congressmen in a room packed with television crews and report-

ers. She was testifying in part as the head of the president's health care task force, she said, "but more importantly for me, I'm here as a mother, a wife, a daughter, a sister, a woman. I'm here as an American citizen concerned about the health of her family and the health of her nation."

Mrs Clinton has become the compassionate human face of health care reform, the non-politician in whom a cynical public is increasingly reposing its trust. Sixty per cent of Americans approve of the job she is doing, up ten points in two weeks, according to a Gallup poll yesterday.

The "American people are rightly watching all of us," she said, moving almost imperceptibly from flattery to veiled warning. "They want change, they expect change, they deserve change. They want to see the government at the highest levels work for them. As stewards of the public trust this is your responsibility."

In two hours Mrs Clinton scarcely glanced at her notes, never stumbled on her words, and eloquently swatted away congressmen's worries about the plan's distinctly dubious financing, its new layers of bureaucracy and regulation, and its likely cost in jobs. Few are better equipped to handle tough



Hillary Clinton giving evidence yesterday to a House committee on health care reform

questions than Mrs Clinton, but few congressional witnesses have commanded such deference. The congressmen lauded their comments with praise. "You were a marvellous witness," Dan Rostenkowski, the committee's grizzled chairman, announced at the end. The committee then did some-

thing unprecedented. It burst into applause. Strictly speaking, of course, the hearings were redundant. Mrs Clinton has had 130 private meetings with congressmen to discuss the plan in recent months. Last week she convened a "health care university" on Capitol Hill for any still

uncertain of its details.

Political scandal: The air of Washington has been thick with political scandal this week after the indictment of a Republican freshman Senator on fraud charges, allegations that a leading member in President Clinton's cabinet received \$700,000 (£470,000) in bribes, and yesterday's surprise announcement by the Democratic chairman of the Senate banking committee, who was implicated in a financial scandal, that he will not seek reelection next year (Wolfgang Munchau writes).

The latest batch of scandal news began with the indictment of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, a rising star in the Republican party. The Democrats have no cause for celebration, especially after Senator Donald Riegle's announcement yesterday that he will not seek reelection. The Michigan Democrat was one of five senators who had been investigated by the Senate ethics committee for involvement in a loans scandal.

The other politicians under a cloud this week is Ron Brown, the commerce secretary, who admitted that he had met a Vietnamese businessman three times last year, amid allegations by another Vietnamese man that Mr Brown had received \$700,000 in exchange for helping to lift the trade ban on Vietnam.

Leading article, page 17

SPECIAL OFFER Thornproof Gardening Gloves

It is not always easy to fully protect your hands from scratches and cuts when you are working in the garden. Really thick gloves restrict movement and thin ones are easily penetrated by sharp thorns.

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MONEY BACK IF NOT DELIGHTED

Radio 1's revolution spares a garrulous old-timer

Sticking to the Wright stuff

"OOH, aah, boo, hooray! It's an-oh-ah TRUE STO-RY, on Radio Waaan, eff em." It's 3.15pm and Steve Wright ("In the afternoon") is playing his jingles. Most of the nation is still at school or work, or contemplating an afternoon nap, yet eight million people still tune in every day for a dose of banter, surreal encounters with characters such as Mr Angry, obscure facts — the man who produced the voice of Bugs Bunny was allergic to carrots — and the occasional three-minute blast of pop.

Steve Wright's formula is so popular that, while fellow "veteran" DJs such as Simon Bates and Alan Freeman have "resigned" from Radio 1, the 38-year-old disc jockey was able to make Monday's photo of the 25-year-old station's new line-up.

In recent years the image of Radio 1 has been one of beer-bellied DJs in cashmere sweaters and perms, living in 16-bedroom mansions in Surrey with a helicopter pad in the garden. Commercial stations were flourishing and Radio 1's audience was slipping, from 25 million in the 1960s to about 19 million today.

But now, if the stories are to be believed, Radio 1 is gunning for an under-25 audience and sweeping aside anyone who is not in that image. Out are the mellow tones of housewives' favourites Simon Bates and Dave Lee Travis, and in is a new line-up of unknowns such as Jo Whitley and Steve Lamacq, who look like members of the first year at the University of Good Clean Fun. They are leather-jacketed, smiling and, surprise, surprise, appear to be as genuinely trendy as a job with the BBC allows. They may never have seen the Beatles live, but they do know how to spell Jamiroquai.

To those whose favourite DJ is Brian Redhead, a lot of fuss may seem to be being made about nothing. On a radio station dedicated to pop music, who cares about the presenters as long as they can change a CD, slot in a jingle tape, and say "smashing" and "nice" with a mid-Atlantic accent.

Radio stations, however, know differently. "The music is very important, but people develop very close relationships with disc jockeys," says John Revell, the joint director of programmes at Virgin 1215. "Radio is a

bloke next door. He is caustic to listeners who phone in, but he is never offensive and by teasing them a bit, they feel he is a real friend."

Every station is aiming at a select market, and each has separate requirements. Mr Revell, of Virgin 1215, says: "Our station is pitched at a slightly older age group and our audience is tired of being patronised by trivia and nonsense. We don't want them to chat in a fluffy way about what they did last night, we want them to be articulate, intelligent and to

stick to something like movies or lifestyle issues." Despite the purge at the BBC, everyone agrees that good DJs come at any age. Chris Tarrant is 46, John Peel, the champion of every musical trend from punk, through hip hop to grunge, is 54 and was rewarded in the Radio 1 reshuffle with his first

daytime show in 25 years. Annie Nightingale, 51, is also staying put.

Everybody agrees that these three will go on indefinitely, because they love what they are doing. "John Peel has a genuine enthusiasm for the music and for the medium," says David Jensen, a former colleague at Radio 1, now with Capital FM. "He has a marvellous esoteric quality and is always way ahead of everyone else. He was playing grunge two years before I even had a name."

The world of radio is full of tales of DJs of a certain age who pick up the phone to make a personal call, as soon as any music comes on. Mr Jensen, 43, says: "Once you stop loving contemporary music you might as well give up. Radio must be spontaneous and fun and listeners can tell at once if your heart's not in it."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH



Claire Sturgess, Steve Lamacq, and Jo Whitley

very intimate medium, it's like a friend, you are alone with it in the car, in the shower — at breakfast, when you can't bear anyone else."

So what are the qualities that make somebody fumble for their favourite station, even when their head is splitting and they have just been confronted with a tax demand? The veteran broadcaster Paul Gambaccini says: "The best DJs have created a world and given us the key to its door. It's exciting and exclusive and if you miss that show you feel deprived."

Jacqueline Aldridge, of Capital FM, whose breakfast show presented by Chris Tarrant is listened to by half the population of Greater London, says: "Chris creates a sense of family in London. People talk about him being the most highly paid broadcaster (he is reported to earn about £500,000 from Capital alone) and about women falling at his feet, but his personality is just like that of

The case of two brothers accused of killing their parents has put a corrupt society on trial, says Ben Macintyre

A young man, handsome and well-dressed in the "preppy" style, is quietly talking about his parents. As he speaks he opens his eyes wide, as children do when they demand to be believed.

Lyle Menendez is desperate to be believed. His life depends on it.

"Did you love your Mom and Dad?" asks his lawyer, coaxing.

"Yes," comes the reply. "On August 20th, 1989, did you and your brother kill your mother and your father?"

"Yes."

A few minutes later, just before Menendez breaks down with a whispering sob, his lawyer says: "Why did you kill your parents?"

"Because we were afraid," he answers and buries his head, with its thatch of dark hair, in his hands.

On a hot California evening in 1989, Lyle and Erik Menendez, then aged 21 and 18, walked into the sitting-room of the family's mansion in Beverly Hills while their parents were eating ice cream and watching television, and shot them to death with 15 shotgun blasts.

According to the defendants, this was a crime wrought from fear, the culmination of years of sexual, physical and emotional abuse at the hands of brutally sadistic parents. Their lawyers have employed a subtle and supple variation of the battered-wife argument, claiming that the Menendez brothers were acting in justifiable self-defence. The brothers claim that José Menendez, 45, a highly successful entertainment executive, and his wife Kitty, 47, a former beauty queen, were planning to kill them.

If the two juries, one for each brother, now hearing testimony in a Los Angeles courtroom, believe the defendants, the result may radically alter the way in which American law perceives child abuse and the emotions and violence, sometimes delayed by years, such abuse can provoke. If the juries are sceptical, Lyle and Erik Menendez may be headed for California's gas chamber.

The case is more than simply a gruesome carnage for the ghoulies of the Hollywood film industry, more even than a legal test case with important implications. It is a grim and salutary tale of rich and all-pervading mendacity and a family at war with itself — wrecked, perhaps, by an American culture of greed and ambition.

The public face of the Menendez family was the biggest lie of all. On the surface they had everything: money (about \$14 million, from José Menendez's music and video-distribution business), good looks, a large and luxurious home, fast cars and boundless opportunities. José wanted to be the first Cuban-born US Senator, one son had gained admission to Princeton University while another had the potential to compete in tennis at a world class level.

But inside, to judge from the 45 days of evidence so far, the Menendez home was a grotesque emotional battleground. By all accounts, José Menendez was a hard-driving



Victims of abuse or consummate liars? Lyle Menendez (left) and his brother, Erik, say they were driven to murder

father with a vicious temper, but by his sons' accounts he was something far worse. Both brothers maintain that they were consistently and repeatedly molested by their father. Lyle says his father told him such acts were an important ritual of male bonding.

Lyle claims his neurotic and alcoholic mother made no attempt to stop her husband's abuse, and even molested him herself.

In August 1989, Lyle says, he confronted his father and told him to stop abusing Erik. A furious, four-day row ensued during which José allegedly shouted: "What I do with my son is my own business. Don't throw your life away. Stay out of it." A remark which Lyle testified he had interpreted as a death threat.

The following Sunday, after yet another confrontation, José and Kitty Menendez angrily retired to watch television. "I thought this was the end. I thought they were going inside the TV room to plan to kill us," Lyle testified last week. A few minutes later both parents were dead.

Under a cross-questioning barrage from prosecutor Pamela Bozanic, Lyle's testimony sounded very different from the gentle victim drawn out by

his own lawyer. "When you put the shotgun up to her left cheek did you love your mother?" the prosecutor demanded.

"Yes," he said. "Was that an act of love?" she spat back. "It was confusion, fear," Lyle said, visibly struggling.

In the days immediately after the shooting, the brothers appeared anything but confused. Feigning inconsolable grief, they told police they had returned from watching a film to find their parents' blasted bodies: they suggested the couple might have been killed by a Mafia hit-mob, hinting darkly at their father's business dealings.

Having erected this complex and highly convincing edifice of lies, Lyle and Erik Menendez did what they liked to do most. They went shopping.

With the insurance money from their parricide, they bought Rolex watches, a Porsche, even a restaurant. The bill for their post-shooting spree came to \$700,000. The brothers now maintain that such extravagance was "normal" by the standards of the Menendez family.

Long after their arrests the Menendez brothers maintained their innocence, and it was not until the damning taped evidence of a psychiatrist was ruled admissible that

their story changed and the grisly tales of sexual abuse and emotional torture began to emerge.

Initially the brothers were vilified in the press as spoiled brats who murdered for a \$14 million inheritance, but as their testimony has unfolded, public perceptions have gradually changed.

At times it appears that José and Kitty, not Lyle and Erik Menendez, are the people on trial. Even some of the jurors could not hold back their tears. "The level of acting has fallen from Laurence Olivier to Sylvester Stallone," muttered prosecutor Bozanic, but the guilty verdict on first-degree murder that once seemed certain is now a long shot. Voluntary manslaughter, or even outright acquittal, now appears a more likely outcome.

Behind it all is the ugly portrait of a hard, perhaps brutal father who taught his sons to cheat and lie. In one of the more peculiar moments during cross-examination, Lyle admitted that his sleek hair was not his own, but a toupee, which he puts on every morning before he enters the courtroom. In a case already so riddled with falsehoods, doubts and contradictions that fact, hardly even seems surprising.

Have you stopped beating your servants? Some neglect their duty to au pairs

Once upon a time, there was a different sort of society in Britain. Those who were sufficiently wealthy would support the less well-off by offering board, lodging and financial reward in exchange for performance of some of life's more menial tasks. The system was called domestic service, and, by and large, it worked.

The Marxist ideology of the 19th century and the social upheavals of the 20th century did away with domestic service until the boom of the Thatcherite 1980s inspired its resurrection. But this week's conviction of a married couple for assaulting their servant girl suggests we have forgotten the ground rules.

Young girls who have taken the gamble of coming to work here are incredibly vulnerable. They place their lives, almost literally, in their new employers' hands. The Victorian household was a mixture of small firm and extended family, a form of feudal organisation displaying a domestic adaptation of *noblesse oblige*: the motto today for families employing young girls from abroad should be *in loco parentis*.

In short, the duties of the employee have to be matched by a sense of responsibility on the part of the employer. The

Domestic disservice

collapse of communism in eastern Europe and the war in former Yugoslavia have radically altered the mosaic of nationalities of youngsters looking for work in Britain. Nowadays, a prospective au pair is as likely to come from Slovenia as Sweden.

The prospective employer has to remember that there is a vast difference between the expectations of someone from a developed industrial society and someone who has lived all her life in a peasant community. Only two years ago we employed as an au pair a girl called Andreja who began her year in England as a Yugoslav and ended it as a citizen of independent Slovenia. In the meantime, she had to watch from a distance as her homeland threatened to collapse into bloodshed. That was stress enough.

But she was also taken aback by the radical differences in lifestyle between subsistence farming in a Balkan village and the inner suburbs of a metropolis. Andreja

thought the obvious way to get from A to B within any town was to walk, or perhaps cycle. When she set out from London's Blackheath to cycle to Croydon, it seemed to her a simple 10-mile ride across town. Why would she need a map? That was until she discovered that in practice her journey was a slog through a giant car-clogged labyrinth.

Linda, a successor, came from Sweden. She was less daunted by the scale of London and *au fait* with the cartographical aspects of urban existence, but almost equally blind, initially, to its perils. On her first night, she disappeared to the Marquee Club until 3.00am. Well and good. The main thing was that she returned unharmed. We had not had time to warn her that London is not necessarily as safe as Stockholm. But it was not until shortly before she was due to leave that a burglary alerted her to reality.

Total immersion in a totally new environment is a daunt-

ing experience for anyone, let alone a girl aged 18 or 19 straight from school and life in the parental home. Inevitably, they take a lot on trust. There is a clear obligation, therefore, not only not to mistreat these girls but also to ensure that they are given a modicum of guidance about how to survive. Inevitably, there are problems. Help in the modern home is not the same as Victorian domestic service. The extended family is a thing of the past and most of us are hypersensitive about intrusion into a nuclear family that can be unstable.

Simply having the space to accommodate an au pair or the money to afford a nanny is not enough on its own. Just because, in our semantic egalitarianism we have denigrated the word "servant" is no excuse for equating it with "slave". It is not a one-sided master-servant relationship but a bargain involving labour and social conditions too.

Those who employ others in their homes and affect birchily to declaim in tones of mock-Victorian melodrama: "Good servants are so hard to find", should reflect on the other side of that aphorism: "and harder still to keep".

PETER MILLAR



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A dose of feminism would help to end the repulsive — and profitable — tradition of putting baby girls to death

The slaughter of Asia's innocents



MARGOT NORMAN

Dr Singh of Ludhiana will have made himself few friends in Britain with his performance on last night's *Ascent* programme about female infanticide in India. Dr Singh, an itinerant gynaecologist, has a handsome living — £1,000 a week, roughly 200 times the average local wage — out of his rasoul scanning machine. He is it to determine the sex of an unborn child and then, if it is an unwanted girl, he follows up with abortion. It is estimated that Dr Singh and his ilk abort around one million baby girls a year, solely because female children are regarded as an unbearable financial burden.

There was something peculiarly repellent about seeing a Westerner, developed in order to reduce infant mortality, being used for the opposite purpose. Anyone who was ever a baby girl must have shuddered to hear the name Dr Singh. He was merely doing his bit to control India's population explosion. Nurses in tower Hamlets shuddered too,

because there is a strong demand for a service like Dr Singh's among some of their Asian patients. Anyone operating an ultrasound scanner at the London Hospital knows the true value of the rule about not disclosing the sex of a foetus, and it is wisely enforced.

Banning the use of ultrasound scanning for this purpose has apparently not worked in India, because policemen and other law enforcers use it to shape their own families. Pastidiousness about the uses of technology is all very well, but is it not even more repellent to see baby girls born and then murdered? That is illegal too, but it was happening before the wandering scanners appeared, and it would happen again if they went. Ever since Sanjay Gandhi's disastrous experiment with mass birth control, which went wrong because it was so brutally and

clack-handedly applied, Indian politicians have been afraid to touch the issue, the population has frankly exploded, and female infanticide has been on the increase.

The practice has a long and universal history. The Christian emperor Constantine outlawed it in the 4th century, but it went on in Europe well into the 19th century. The prophet Mohammed also banned it. But then, the Prophet also fomented against slavery and laid down legal rights for slaves which are still flouted with impunity in the households of the wealthy devout throughout Africa and the Middle East. They are even flouted today in Lincoln, as we saw in the case of Dr Trapathi and her surgeon husband who were convicted on Monday for grossly abusing their maid (see Peter Millar, facing page).

In China these days there are occasional bursts of official zeal to

stamp out female infanticide. In India, we are told that poverty and overpopulation are to blame, and that a poor man can plausibly claim it would be worse for his daughter to live and have no dowry to get a husband than never to have lived at all. In China, where birth control is strictly reinforced with economic sanctions, it appears that it is those peasants who have recently acquired enough wealth and proper-

ty to care about its disposal, who are keenest to get rid of their infant daughters and ensure that their only child is a son.

Poverty, therefore, is only part of the story. India was fabled for its wealth in the days of the Mogul emperors and so, at that same period, was China. Baby girls were put to death then, just as they are now that there are so many more Indians and Chinese among whom to divvy up the national spoils.

To this jaundiced eye, it appears that what both countries need is a healthy blast of feminism. Where are India's Kate Millets, Germaine Greers and Betty Friedmans? Property, the dowry system and male vanity are at the root of all this, not merely poverty and over-population. If every poor Indian woman has a friend whose baby girl was aborted, every rich one has a tale of someone who

doesn't realise that his son is not really his own, but was swapped at birth.

Variations of the tale of James II's son, who may or may not have been smuggled into the queen's room in a warming pan, are extraordinarily common where Indian women gather to gossip. Why are these women not doing more about it?

The dowry system itself has some merit as a way of forging joint families with powerful incentives for stability, and thereby for the long-term care of their members. Great dynasties and enduring rural communities have alike been built on it. However, the dowry itself and the extravagance not only of wedding feasts but also of the various ceremonies, such as ear-piercing, that mark the feminine rites of passage in India have swelled like a cockerel's breast. Male vanity, which until com-

paratively recently in this country could not endure a working wife because neighbours would take this as a sign of a husband's failure as provider, is to blame. In China, the People's Republic gave women equal rights of property ownership in 1950, and in 1950 the Hindu Succession Act gave property rights to Hindu women in India, but male vanity has continually undermined the effectiveness of these measures.

As we have seen, Indian doctors can make a vastly better living doing what doctor Singh does than by running contraceptive clinics. Indeed a woman doctor friend of mine who does this in the state of Tamil Nadu is pretty impoverished as a result, knowing that male pride makes it useless to discuss contraception with the men, she secretly offers sterilisation or intra-uterine devices to their womenfolk and very rarely gets paid anything for her service because the women have no money of their own. Only the women can stop the escalation of showiness in matters matrimonial and it is high time they did.

'An event of such magnitude that opera-goers behaved like football fans...'

Kate Muir sees New York toast the singers who first performed at the Metropolitan Opera 25 years ago

A quarter-century ago, two little-known foreign tenors made their separate debuts at New York's Metropolitan Opera House and nobody noticed. Two nights ago, Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti appeared together on that same stage, an event of such magnitude it caused gentle opera-goers to behave like screaming football fans.

The 25th anniversary celebration of the two "mega-tenors", as they are being described here, was the Metropolitan Opera's opener for the season and decidedly the hottest ticket in town, at up to \$1,000 (about £660).

Domingo sang Siegmund in *Die Walküre*, while Pavarotti took on Act 1 of *Otello*. Then both appeared identically dressed as Manrico in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, mock-duelling, then sharing the end of the part in joint virtuoso high notes, thus putting paid to rumours of rivalry.

The critics tripped over one another in search of adjectives to praise the performances, and opera-goers and benefactors tripped over one another in order to be photographed for the weekend's gossip columns in the right designer gown. In all, then, a proper New York event.

But what added poignancy to this rare Pavarotti-Domingo double bill was the fact that such an event will probably

never occur here again. Domingo is 55, but Pavarotti will be 59 next month, and his manager has suggested that he may give up the opera stage in a year or two to concentrate on less demanding one-off concerts.

An American critic once said of Pavarotti, "God has kissed his vocal cords", but the cords are not immune to ageing. Yesterday's *New York Times* review even mentioned Pavarotti's "lack of ease" and lack of "vocal reserves", while otherwise praising him.

Pavarotti is discussed in tones similar to those used of aging boxers trying to hold on to a world title.

Words such as "past his peak", "overweight" and "out of condition" were heard just before the summer. Pavarotti was seen to be out of breath after just a short walk, and could barely manage stairs because of his ballooning weight. But the Pavarotti who arrived in New York last week seemed to have a new lease of life.

Some opera-goers who were not above reading the tabloid gossip noted that Pavarotti seemed to be escorting a woman half his age, and a quarter his size, and that this had brought a new spring to his step.

Lucia Debrill, a 27-year-old model and part-time jetsetter,

was cited by the *New York Post*'s diary as Pavarotti's new amour. The couple were said to have been seen "hand-in-hand on benches in Central Park, and caught climbing in and out of the singer's white stretch limousine outside the Hampshire House, where he keeps an apartment".

Lucia was then credited by an unnamed source at his concert bookings company as being the salvation of the ever-expanding tenor, helping him to regain self-respect, and lose 60 lb. "He was in the dumps and she lifted his spirit and encouraged him to get back in better shape."

While little was heard of Domingo, Pavarotti was a rolling news event, in all senses. The night before the concert, Pavarotti gave an almost surreal performance in broken English on CBS's *60 Minutes*, the current affairs television programme.

The American cameras arrived to film at Pavarotti's Italian beach villa to find it scattered with the singer's peculiar relatives.

This gave rise to comments from Pavarotti such as: "Yeah. That man with the teeth out is my father." Later, Lucia Pavarotti, the singer's long-suffering wife, pointed to a child at the family meal and said: "If you see the baby, like that little boy..." Then she paused to indicate Pavarotti. "...he's the same."



Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti share the stage for their Metropolitan Opera House concert, at up to \$1,000 the "hottest ticket in town"

She continued: "Impatient, yes. Cannot stay concentrated for more than ten minutes."

Better still were Pavarotti's candid discussions of his personal problems. "Well, the weight problem with a person like me is just one answer: eat," he said, smiling happily into the camera. "I like to eat and I do. They told me that I like horses — I am almost a horse."

Asked about "entering the twilight of his career" and whether he is lazy, Pavarotti

answered: "You want to know something? I am lazy."

When asked about his unfortunate lip-synching experience at a concert for which the BBC were paying \$30,000, the tenor did not seem upset that he tried to fool the audience, but merely that he lip-synched rather badly. "It is incredible, in fact," he said. "It was made too quick and without the usual way in which I am doing the thing. I thought I was able to lip, to make the playback right. Instead, I'm lousy one."

Childlike and candid, Pavarotti admitted no animosity towards those who booed him when he failed to reach the high notes in a scrappy performance of *Don Carlos* at La Scala.

Referring to regular opera-goers he said: "They give all their love to opera. They think they are the ultimate judge of what is going to happen here, and they think they have the right to applaud or boo. And if you want to know my opinion, they are right."

Tories have no fury like a leader scorned

Disloyalty now seems to be the Conservative norm. Peter Riddell says

FORMER party leaders should not behave like old actors hanging around the green room in their dotage. Harold Macmillan liked to say in his familiar Edwardian actor-manager persona. He followed his own advice for most of the years after he left Downing Street in October 1963.

It was only in the 1980s, and especially after his ennoblement as the Earl of Stockton, that he intervened, offering elegant warnings about selling off the family silver, and praising the miners during their 1984-85 strike.

One of the Tories' favourite claims used to be that their secret weapon was loyalty, whereas disloyalty was the Labour norm. That adage, never true in practice, has now been turned on its head.

This week, Baroness Thatcher ("granny will always be there to advise") has seized on the extension of VAT to domestic fuel to criticise her successor, while Neil Kinnock has vigorously backed his successor's attempt to reduce the unions' collective role in the Labour party.

Lady Thatcher is not alone in being a nuisance to her successor, though the fre-

quency and strength of her criticisms are greater. Some former leaders, like old soldiers, have faded away. Others have remained on the battlefield, refighting old wars or trying to start new ones.

Those who have resigned because of age, illness, or who have accepted that it was time to give up have seldom troubled their successors. Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee were old men when they finally retired in 1955, and became icons for their parties. Attlee was occasionally wheeled on to make characteristically laconic expressions of loyalty between puffs on his pipe.

Harold Wilson was only 60 when he left Downing Street in 1976, younger than many others when they first became prime minister. Apart from the occasional indiscretion in press interviews, he was studiously loyal. He devoted his time to turning out worthily dull books before ill health and premature old age took him out of politics.

Others left office discredited or quickly became so afterwards. Although retiring



Heath and Thatcher have sniped, Kinnock has been loyal

in 1937 amid widespread praise for his handling of the abdication crisis, Stanley Baldwin was tarnished by the collapse of appeasement. Anthony Eden, who retired in January 1957, was broken by the Suez crisis and played little part in politics for his remaining 20 years. Indeed, he resisted calls to make public his doubts about Macmillan's application to join the Common Market.

Those who ceased leading their parties when sufficiently young, or still with the inclination, to play a continuing active part in politics have faced a dilemma. Should they suppress their views and become team players or

should they attempt to be rival leaders? Some have succeeded in playing under new captains, notably patriotic Tories such as Arthur Balfour and Alec Douglas-Home. Balfour was a member of both the Lloyd George coalition and the Tory cabinets of the 1930s, 20 years after he ceased being prime minister.

SIMILARLY, Lord Home served his successor Sir Edward Heath, both in opposition and as foreign secretary from 1970 to 1974 — even though he was privately hurt by the pressures which persuaded him to give up the Tory leadership in July 1968.

The real threat has come from those forced out of office against their will. Asquith and his allies moved onto the opposition benches after he was ousted by Lloyd George, a fellow Liberal, and the Tories in December 1916. In his turn, Lloyd George never accepted that the revolt by Tory backbenchers in October 1922, which forced him out of Downing Street, should mean the end of his career. Lloyd George, dubbed "the goat in the wilderness", was feared by Baldwin for at least a decade.

More recently, Sir Edward Heath's bitterness at the "peasants' revolt" against him in February 1975 was

only suppressed for a few years until he became an open, and increasingly outspoken, critic of the Thatcher government. His attacks attracted headlines but had little real impact because he had alienated many of his former supporters, and not just those, such as Kenneth Baker, who had gone over to the other side. He even differed, in a more good humoured way, with friends and former aides such as Douglas Hurd.

LADY THATCHER has been as bitter as Sir Edward. But she is more dangerous since she retains many political and press allies who share her belief in the great betrayal of November 1990 and her disillusion with John Major (whom she, inexplicably, believed to share her outlook). To many she remains the queen over the water. For them, Mr Major can never be a worthy successor.

The paradox of former leaders is that, while they have often destroyed, they have seldom been creative. Lady Thatcher's final contribution could be to help bring down her successor, finally burying Thatcherism in the process.

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A survey of sexual preferences is needed before nurses change uniforms

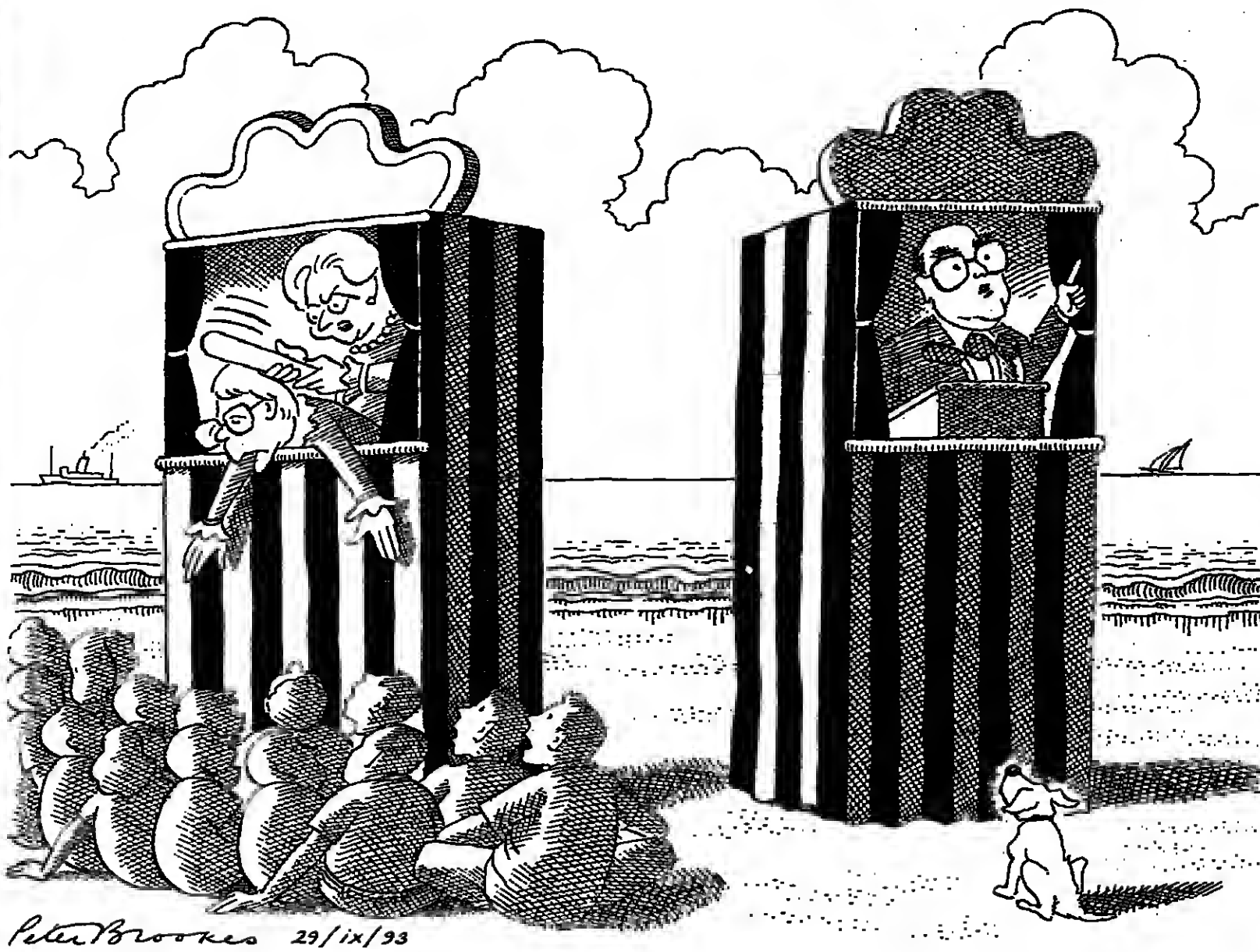
Those of you who have been taking *The Times* since 1954 will recall that when Florence Nightingale glided through the Scutari wards, the sick would struggle upright in their cots and press their lips against the wall to kiss her passing shadow. Sadly, W.H. Russell, who conveyed this disgusting intelligence to Printing House Square, was not enough of a journalist to record Ms Nightingale's reaction, so we shall never know whether she called upon her sisterhood to withdraw their labour, buttonholed Lord Raglan to introduce bedside courts martial forthwith, or merely fetched the offenders a smart swipe with her lamp, but whichever it was, you may safely bet it would have received a round of applause from Mr Brian Mawhinney.

For he is a junior health minister, and he knows that if he wants one day to step into Virginia Bottomley's shoes, he would not hurt his cause by supporting the nurses, as he is currently doing in his bid to replace the uniforms which, they claim, turn them into sex objects. I hope, by the way, that you will forgive my mentioning Mrs Bottomley's shoes: I appreciate that there are men out there who might have begun trembling uncontrollably at the thought of these, even some, indeed, who might have been unacceptably stirred by the vision of Mr Mawhinney standing in them, but it is impossible, these days, for hacks to avoid the offence such unwitting blows may give, for the same reason that will make it impossible for Mr Mawhinney and his nurses to hit upon an aspidochelone to stashed skirts and black stockings.

In proof of this I cite the fact they are presently lobbying for trousers, presumably on the assumption that while all men are driven wild by someone lined out like Hanne Jacobs, no man is driven anything by someone kinked out like Annela Rice. Implicit insults to men apart, this strikes me as a demonstrably questionable proposition. I speak, furthermore, as a man who has always found the most distracting feature of a nurse's uniform to be the bob-waich hanging upside-down on her right breast, and I don't see what can be done about this, unless nurses intend (since a wrist-watch interferes with some of their more intimate duties) to start carrying bracket-clocks. It may well be, if the nursing lobby has its way, that anyone going into hospital will first have to sign a form stating what his sexual preferences are, so that appropriately unarousing staff may be assigned to him. Or, of course, her, given that the crisp white uniforms of male nurses, never mind the natty three-piece worsteds of medical consultants, could well leave many a female patient gnawing her pillow to shreds.

And should Mawhinney and his nurses succeed, what then? Will militant policewomen clamour beneath Michael Howard's window to bring home to him the unacceptable number of men whose dreams are patrolled by cheeky hats and clinking handcuffs dangling provocatively from the skirted hip, will meter-maidsway John MacGregor to demand a less alluring greatcoat, will female librarians refuse to scale their ladders unless Peter Brooke comes round personally each morning to help them into unrevealing waders, is poor Malcolm Rifkind to have the cares of office compounded by distraught servicemen complaining that there's something about a soldier, and if it's all the same to him they'd like to march in carpet slippers and beige cardigans, to reduce the likelihood of shrieking women tearing their exciting uniforms off?

The plain fact is that because there is no accounting for lust's myriad stimuli, there is no sure means of taking evasive action against them. None of us can be certain that if the nation's nurses were to be kitted out in gummy-sacks and baldricks, there would not be large numbers of men who, for the first time in their lives, felt in urgent need of an enema. And since some misguided citizens would appear to be hankering after Orwell's Anti-Sex League, I am tempted to remind them that his Thought Police failed utterly to control desire. Oh, come on, surely you remember the Thought Police? They wore light black uniforms, shiny helmets, riding boots, Sam Browne belts, big leather gloves, all that. They looked absolutely terrific.



Peter Brookes 29/ix/93

The conservative party

John Smith is content to have the old cabals about him, keeping Labour's face pointing back to a discredited past

John Smith is a lawyer. When he says that he passionately believes in something, what are we supposed to think? That his brief as Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition is marked £60,000 and it stipulates passionate belief? That the jury is what counts? That the clients must be getting value for money or they would throw him out? Or what?

After Kenneth Clarke, Mr Smith is second in line to the Downing Street throne. The march of history must put him odds-on to win the next election. Yet he personifies the dominant fact of Labour in the final quarter of the 20th century, that it has lost an empire and not found a novel role. Mr Smith has not achieved the Wilsonian coup and made the Tories look like the old Britain and Labour the new. He is now forced to hire Liberal condottieri to fight the Tories in the south of England. This is humiliating and dangerous to his hope of an overall majority. He has even gone into a clinch with the old enemy, the union barons, to show his virility. Even this battle is somewhat bloodless, devoid of the old passion.

There is only one question ever to ask of an Opposition: what would it really do with victory? Would Labour, as the political philosopher Elie Kedourie suggested in 1992, just "keep things on an even keel and ticking over, manage affairs without making waves and with a minimum of fuss, like Whig grandees... but deprived of an ideological high"? It is hard to imagine anything else. Socialism never crosses any lips these days.

Mr Smith's two almost identical speeches to the Trades Union Congress and Labour party conferences have been largely content-free. Archaeological digs yield little but broken shards of circa 1975. Mr Smith asks John Major to "Put Britain first—drop the dead dogma", a platitude of Ashdownian banality. He complains that the Tories put up taxes, particularly VAT. Labour would raise revenue, he says, by closing tax loopholes "which enable the rich and powerful to avoid paying their fair share of the tax burden". Loophole closing is Labour's only tax-raising idea. As for the gap between rich and poor, Mr Smith says it is now "wider than 125 years ago". This is all gibberish.

Taxation is becoming politically de-toxified, except as material for election whoppers. More significant is what Mr Smith says about employment. I searched in vain for some sign that Mr Smith recalled the experience of 1979. He

has total amnesia. He wants to return power to the public-sector unions. He believes that "if ever there was a need for strong trade unions in Britain, it is today". He even hazards that his one member vote reform is "not about weakening the links between Labour and the unions but strengthening them".

Mr Smith understands, or has been told, that the nature of work is changing to yield "new forms of flexible specialisation, just-in-time management and niche marketing". Yet he cannot marry these clichés to the traditional—I would say contractual—obligation of unions to protect their members' inter-

ests against the threat of change. He seems unaware of the concern among European employers at the Maastricht social chapter. He wants not just to sign it but to go further. He wants an extra charter that would "give all workers basic employment rights which will come into force on the first day of their employment regardless of the number of hours worked... part-time and full-time, temporary and permanent". This would devastate part-time work and boost unemployment (or law-breaking especially among working mothers. It is as illiterate as it is reckless. The unions love it.

All politics is about costs. I doubt whether Mr Smith really would "use the tax system to narrow the gap between rich and poor", any more than he would repeal VAT on fuel, dismantle the council tax or nationalise British Telecom. Faced with a £50 million budget deficit, he would be panicking like any responsible government. I assume he recognises the central paradox of modern politics: how to pay for demand-led social services in a Britain that must compete with countries not sustaining such services. He is merely waiting until he crosses the Downing Street threshold to ponder a solution.

Yet codes do indicate priorities at the margins of policy. They show what a prime minister might do in a scrape,

where he turns for friends. Whether Labour modernises the way it selects MPs is, in my view, immaterial. The contribution that parties make to modern elections is to select leadership candidates for a presidential contest. MPs do not matter. Since the unions pay for the Labour party I have some residual sympathy for the view that they should have a special role in its constitution. "No taxation without representation" has its place within institutions as well as within nations.

What Mr Smith's speeches do suggest is that he is content to have the old cabals about him. His instincts are deeply conservative.

He nodded yesterday towards the need to arrest the Tories' drift to centralism, to reassert local democracy. But he is basically happy with the cosy corporatism of the post-1945 settlement. This was always Labour's liking.

The party took a brief intellectual pounding with the collapse of communism. As Steven Lukes, one of Labour's more articulate thinkers, wrote: "We have lost not only a theory of institutional design for a socio-economic system, but also the very idea of such a theory". (Gareth Cellier, the one of the apostles of Adam Smith, were the only ones to dissent; he was dead.) Labour might be able to salvage something from the wreck: a framework for tax transfers from rich to poor; a theory of pure public service; equality of civic opportunity. But I think that socialism will prove to have been a passing flirtation in the Labour party's history.

Labour has never forgotten its roots, in trade unionism. It is the party of an interest, that of organised labour, of public institutions and those who benefit from them. Already Mr Smith's speeches have been strip-searched for socialism and declared free. They are now blatant responses to a group of lobbyists. He pledges them a bigger public sector and

more power to press their claims within it. Hence his cynical hostility ("bargain-basement Britain") to low-cost employment: by definition, the first line of help to the unemployed.

The irony of British politics in the 1980s was that the Tories, the natural party of anti-government, should have been in office throughout. Thatcherism, for all its bombast, did not seriously reduce the stature of the public sector, the incidence of taxation, the potency of the Whitehall machine. Only privatisation honoured Michael Oakeshott's dictum that Conservatism was about the diffusion of power. History will show that Margaret Thatcher's state became more not less centralised. She reduced constitutional diversity in espousing the "Treasury view" of public expenditure, and in exerting detailed control over local councils and other institutions receiving state support.

Mrs Thatcher left office with the public sector as big as when she entered. State benefits had been indexed. Departmental empires were protected. Public sector unions remained powerful. Prison, fire and ambulance officers, railway and postal staff, policemen, health-service workers, civil servants came through the 1980s with terms and conditions of service remarkably unbruised compared with the private sector. Small wonder government employees are now the stars of organised labour.

Labour's opposition to Thatcherism was always more instinctive than intellectually coherent. Mr Smith could hardly demand an ever higher borrowing requirement. The most determined opposition came from the libertarian right, wrongly identified with the "far right". These lobbies, from the Institute of Economic Affairs to the apostles of Adam Smith, were the only ones to discomfit her. Labour has never sat happily alongside libertarianism. It was the party of those in work and able to use their labour as a lever for protection. Britain still lacks a party of the outsider, the taxpayer, the freelance, the one-man-band, the parish pump, a party of smallness and inconsequence.

Perhaps Mr Smith will keep his cards so close to his chest that he does indeed win office. He will thus free the Tories of the chains of "power", to escape, purge and purify themselves of their rampant centralism. They may then return to tame Leviathan and restore constitutional diversity to a tenuously united kingdom. But is that really the best that Labour can offer?

An 'EC' for the Middle East?

A community will safeguard peace, says Abba Eban

At a meeting of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in September 1967 I suggested that Israel and its immediate neighbours should explore the European Community idea as a precedent for their own relationships. If this were accepted, Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians would be separate in their independence, but linked by binding community obligations in most other fields.

The EC is now in crisis as a result of pushing the federal idea too quickly. Nevertheless, the EC is still the only serious attempt by nations to respect sovereignty while also transcending it. It is true that the individual nation-state is not a viable economic or security unit. But it is still the only real focus of national pride and social allegiance. The nation-state as an institution is not in decline. It is proliferating. Nations are not willing to renounce their flags or to forget their histories. Responding skillfully to its own paradox, the world is fragmenting and integrating at one and the same time.

The idea of Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians living in states that would be juridically sovereign but interdependent in most other domains first seized my imagination when I participated as a delegate in the partition debate in the UN General Assembly of November 1947. On that occasion the representative of The Netherlands recalled that after the Napoleonic wars Belgium and Holland were brought together in one unitary state. He went on:

"Although our two peoples had very close ties, relations and interests, this unitary state ended rapidly and unsuccessfully. The differences between Arabs and Jews are much greater than those between Belgians and Dutchmen. Now, together with Luxembourg, our countries are united, not politically but economically, and what counts now is not our political separation but our union for economic purposes. History has taught our countries this valuable lesson of independence combined with unity for certain important but limited purposes."

I returned to this thought at the Geneva peace conference in December 1973 when the foreign ministers of the United States, the Soviet Union and Middle Eastern states met at the same table for the first time. I then said that "the ultimate guarantee of a peace agreement lies in the creation of common regional interests in such entanglement of mutual advantage and accessibility as to put future wars beyond rational contingency".

This parallelism could not take off in the Middle East so long as the Arab world, and especially the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was bleakly and ineffectively obsessed with the denial of Israel's legitimacy. Now that Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians are no longer divided on the recognition issue, they should give serious thought to the structure of their relationships.

The idea of three small states totally separate from each other and without open boundaries would not respond to their proximity or their economic interests. Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister whose initiative was crucial in the Israel-Palestinian agreement, has spoken of a possible Jordanian-Palestinian "confederation". The trouble with that word, however, is that it implies a lack of sovereignty among the constituent parts. Switzerland and Canada are confederations, but the Swiss units are only "cantons" and the Canadian units are only "provinces". The 12 members of the EC are the only states to have created a structure in which individual sovereignty and regional integration are in correct balance.

A confederation of Jordan and the Palestinian component would mean that Israel's neighbour would be a large state extending from Jenin and Tulkarm to the Iraqi border with a large Jordanian army. A community of Israel, Jordan and a Palestinian mini-state would give Israel a smaller and less militarily formidable neighbour, like Luxembourg in the Benelux complex. The confederation idea has more complexities than its proponents have addressed, and Israeli leaders have no need to commit themselves to it too rapidly.

No peace proposal has yet acquired an Israeli consensus. The Likud party, through its leader Benjamin Netanyahu, advocates the maintenance of military government "enhanced" by a death penalty and by the weakening of legal restraints on the actions of Israel's security forces. It is intellectually shocking that just when 48 years of Israeli tenacity have induced a manifest thaw in Arab extremism, a major Israeli party, spurred on by American columnists, should be advocating an intensification of the coercive rigour that has failed wherever it has been tried.

The good news is that the major poll in Israel on September 15 showed a landslide support (61 per cent against 37) for the Israeli-PLO agreement. Israeli views and emotions are on the move.

It would be wrong to postpone thinking about the structure of Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian relations until the interim agreement on autonomy has run its course. Interim agreements can only prosper if there is some common thinking on ultimate visions. Those who begin a long march have a logical tendency to be curious about where their journey will lead.

The author is a former foreign minister of the state of Israel. This article first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

After Benn...

TONY BENN's ousting from the Labour party's national executive committee will have struck fear in the hearts of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, despite their re-election to the constituency section of the NEC. Next year the number of seats reserved for women in the section will rise to two. And if this year's voting pattern is repeated, shadow Chancellor Brown, with 414,000 votes, would be the first to go. Blair, with only 7,000 votes more, cannot afford to relax either.

Their fate also hangs on John Smith's one member one vote proposals, which will be decided today. Currently each constituency party member casts one vote, but with only the top seven going forward from each constituency to party conference, Omov will mean all votes are taken into account, and while most agree that Omov's impact on NEC elections will be significant, nobody is willing to predict whether it will help or hinder Brown's prospects.

The Labour party is being supportive of a shadow minister whose stock has diminished. The financial brief, a spokesman points out, is always unpopular. Gordon Brown is a very intelli-

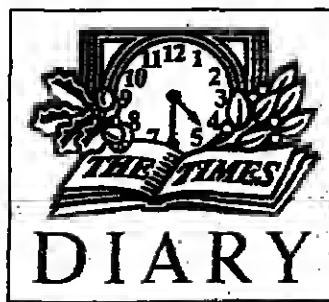
gent politician who has made a contribution to the party and we would like to see him stay on the NEC. The situation could be different next year—he has just presented a difficult package.

Three or four years ago Bryan Gould was in the same position presenting a difficult economic strategy. The following year his NEC rating dropped, but the year after, his voting was up again. Still, not the most encouraging of comparisons.

Big brother

WHATEVER the outcome of today's Omov vote, John Smith and his foreign affairs spokesman Jack Cunningham could be in for a distinctly awkward time when they are next interviewed by their union sponsor, the GMB. Under John Edmonds, the GMB is, of course, one of the principal opponents of Omov.

Sponsorships for each parliamentary term are agreed during mid-term meetings between a sub-committee of the GMB national executive and sponsored MPs. MPs must be re-elected. So will the union go gunning for support-



ers of Omov? A GMB spokesman insists that under the Hastings Agreement which governs sponsorship of MPs, the union does not have much scope for retribution. "Day to day matters are for MPs to decide. The amount of influence that is wielded over them by the union is very small."

Civic war

NOT exactly what the prime minister wants to hear the week before the Conservative conference, but his local council is under threat. Cambridgeshire county council has opted to replace itself with two new councils—one based in Cambridge and another, based in Peterborough, which would envelop Huntingdonshire district council. Derek Holley, Huntingdonshire's leader, is dismayed. "We

are among the top 30 biggest district councils and are twice the size of the Forest of Dean, which is a unitary authority." He is, however, confident that co-ordinated protest, combined with a little prime-ministerial support, will force Cambridgeshire to recant.

He adds, diplomatically: "I have had no indications that John Major does not support us. He has done so on other things. We had long sessions on housing problems with him and, before too long, pressure was put on building societies over repossessions. We are confident we can win this one."

DESPITE her assertion that she remains faithfully by John Smith's side, senior Labour MPs are saying Margaret Beckett's time may be up. They suggest that now Neil Kinnock has indicated he would welcome a place in a future Labour cabinet, that he should take over from Beckett as deputy leader. Smith and Kinnock, the dream ticket? For the Tories, maybe.

Open house

JOHN Habgood makes a little bit of history next week. For the first time in his ten-year career as Archbishop of York, he will preach to a congregation of Freemasons—at

evensong in St Augustine's Church, Kirby-in-Cleveland.

For Habgood-watchers the news may not come as a complete surprise. In 1987, opening a debate on Freemasonry at the General Synod, he noted: "Let me start by putting my cards on the table and saying I regard it [Freemasonry] as a fairly harmless eccentricity."

Habgood's assistant, Raymond Barker, insists this is not as dismissive as it sounds: "He does not see a conflict between Freemasonry and Christianity. Those who profess Christian beliefs should be welcomed into the church."

St Augustine's vicar, the Rev David Boase, is delighted. The Freemasons asked if I would approach the archbishop. I did, and he said yes. It is usually a very good service, an annual event which ranks alongside services for the Scouts or the Guides.

Desperately sought

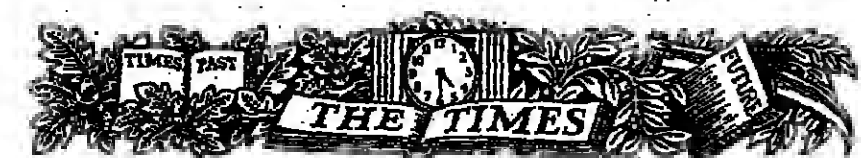
NO SIGN of Madonna, reportedly Tina Modotti's number one fan, at Monday night's party for Margaret Hook's biography of the 1920s film siren turned political revolutionary. Seven invitations were dispatched to the material girl, said publisher Pandora, but still the star of the Girlie Show

stayed away. Nevertheless, an army of Modotti fans was in attendance.

They included the materially disinclined Sara Parkin and the newly engaged Koo Stark, who like Modotti has graced both sides of the camera in her time. Stark indicates her forthcoming nuptials will not affect her photographic career. "I am working on a retrospective of 12 years of my work, featuring 100 portraits. It's called So Far."

Days after Sydney's Olympic victory, the fall-out is being felt in Peking. The city's 338-room Olympic Hotel, built for the 2000 Games, has been repossessed after defaulting on loans.





FEED THE HUNGRY SHEEP

America's foreign policy needs more vision and greater clarity

Monroe had a doctrine. Teddy Roosevelt spoke softly and wielded a big stick. Woodrow Wilson had 14 points. Truman applied containment. Nixon launched détente. Carter identified his foreign policy with human rights, and under Reagan America stood tall against "the evil empire". On the evidence of his speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations President Clinton still lacks "the vision thing".

The success of Mr Clinton's presidential campaign was based upon attacks on the Bush administration's foreign policy pre-occupations. His campaign workers galvanised themselves with the slogan "the economy, stupid", not a new internationalism. No incoming president would have found it easy to replace the simple verities of the Cold War with a complex foreign policy that demands the talents of a Palmerston or an alleyrand rather than John Kennedy erics. But the charge of incoherence, everpower status its presidents need to cut dash in the world. Judged by the standards of Mr Clinton's own intellectual pretensions is world vision appears decidedly hazy.

The UN speech was supposed to be the elimination of a summer rethink on foreign policy. Mr Clinton has been clearly gung by the American foreign policy establishment's criticism of his haphazard diplomacy in Bosnia and Somalia. His curate's egg of a speech had its good parts. The call to curb the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons is most welcome, notably in the light of developments in North Korea, Iran and Russia. "The engagement of the world's community of market democracies", pursued by extending the benefits of free trade, is a commitment that deserves applause. Mr Clinton has left late to crusade for the North American Free Trade Agreement, but the objective is a worthwhile one, and the conclusion of the

Gatt trade round would be of inestimable benefit to the world.

Last year the president called for an expanded UN peacekeeping role, including the creation of a standing rapid deployment force. This year Mr Clinton, hardened by experience in Somalia, believes the United States should begin "asking tougher questions about new peacekeeping missions". This is the voice of America, bruised by its experiences in Vietnam and Beirut in 1982. On a more optimistic note it is also the voice of the America which won the Gulf War on the basis of massively preponderant force and a clearly defined mission.

Mr Clinton demands reform of UN peacekeeping arrangements. "The United Nations must also have the technical means to run a modern world-class peacekeeping operation." He also stated that, "If the American people are to say yes to UN peacekeeping, the United Nations must also know when to say no" to overly ambitious operations. Quite. But, following the collapse of Soviet power, America has never been in a more powerful position in the world body. If America is to be the UN's "first friend and first critic", it had better do more than spout platitudes from the sidelines. It should employ active diplomacy to reform the institution.

In the background as ever were Bosnia and America's relationship with its European allies within Nato. Mr Clinton praised the UN humanitarian effort in Bosnia, and pledged American support for a peace agreement. What that promise of support means is still unclear. Mr Clinton has called for a Nato summit in January to clarify the alliance's role. There were no pointers in his speech. Will Nato extend its security interests eastward from its core area? Will it take in new members? Will America really police a peace agreement in Bosnia? The hungry sheep look up, and are not fed.

PEACE IN PIECES

A nationalist pact will not solve Ulster's problems

A joint peace initiative launched by Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, and John Hume, leader of the SDLP, is an example of a pact that will stop more important talks. For its ringing rhetoric, the pact is little more than a fragile agreement between two camps within Northern Ireland's divided nationalist minority. It does not herald peace or may do much to thwart it. So little has been achieved in Northern Ireland in the eight years since the Anglo-Irish Agreement that any dialogue between a combination of factions is seized upon as breakthrough. The historic agreements signed by former enemies in the Middle East and South Africa this year have only lightened expectations that the dove of peace must soon descend on Ulster. But in case the optimism is quite misplaced, a new pact will simply ensure that nationalists become less willing to talk to the DUP, the only authentic voice of constitutional nationalism in the North.

To disclose only the fact of the deal rather than its details was both arrogant and naïve, suggesting that Mr Hume and Mr Adams love that peace is theirs to declare when they have resolved their own disagreements. The details remain confidential, nationalists have inevitably assumed the rest, and fear that the cost of an IRA seffire would be some form of joint sovereignty over the province.

This has become the favoured solution of any involved in this increasingly sterile state. Yet it is hard to see what the vocates of joint rule imagine it will achieve. Carving up sovereignty and adding out the fragments to the claimants is not resolve existing political divisions; ossifies them. In 1974 the power-sharing

executive in Northern Ireland, which included representatives from both communities, was brought down almost instantly by Unionist fury. The reaction of Loyalists to a similar body including representatives from Dublin and perhaps, as Mr Hume has suggested, the European Community, is not hard to guess. Hawkish republicans would see such a settlement as merely a pit stop to reunification, a view that paramilitary Loyalists would certainly share. The argument that joint rule would bring peace to Ireland is ludicrous.

The two large bombs that exploded in Belfast on Monday indicated either that Sinn Féin has lost control of republican terrorism or that its leaders are insincere in their belief that they have found "a solid basis for peace". Either way, Unionists and the British government have no reason to trust the alleged conversion of a party which has for so long pursued a deplorably opportunistic "ballot and bullet" campaign.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, was right, therefore, to condemn Sinn Féin's hypocrisy swiftly and put the new nationalist pact in perspective. A harder task will be to relaunch his own official talks, which have been dealt a grievous blow by this ill-conceived agreement. To bring the Unionists back to the table, he must do more to dispel their fears that a private constitutional deal has already been struck between Dublin and London: in effect, a second Anglo-Irish Agreement. He must also persuade Mr Hume that his formal association with Sinn Féin may postpone indefinitely any meaningful settlement in the North. As the last quarter century of Irish history has shown, there is no such thing as a unilateral peace.

PAINT IT GREY

The triumph of youth at Radio 1 is not the end of an era

Every institution, the old order changed, giving place to new. Yet the inevitability of change is small consolation to those who are cleared to be dodos by energetic fledglings. The purge of Radio 1's older presenters and its replacement by a more youthful cohort this week was a poignant moment for the generation of listeners brought up in the 1960s and 1970s. Of the young Turks who anchored the BBC's daring new radio work as "announcers" in 1967, only John Peel remains. The cultural rebels have themselves been supplanted.

In the last decade, the cult of youth has herded pace. The upward mobility of the atcher years taught the young to expect in turn at the helm faster than ever, owing up in a culture of instant obsolescence, they have rejected the voice of experience more readily than their predecessors a generation ago. As our Arts pages sort today, pop newspapers are hiring iters of 16 and 17 to review concerts: those enough to have A levels need not apply. "et there is much continuity in this alleged olution. The pop music industry is still nminated by middle-aged businessmen fully manipulating youthful tastes and rketts. No less than when Colonel Tom rkers managed Elvis Presley, a rich Sven rly lurks behind every angry young man. ally, the conspicuous absence of politics ideas in the new forms of dance music gets they will evaporate as quickly as bland teenage idols of the 1950s. Though

the BBC would like Radio 1 listeners to believe it has yielded to an *avant garde* and thrown out the establishment, the opposite is true. The new DJs have been carefully groomed within Broadcasting House, unlike the first Radio 1 presenters who were genuine outlaws, plucked from the illegal pirate stations.

The fascination of this week's cultural revolution at Radio 1 has more to do with the durability of the old than the potency of the new. The generation represented by the Radio 1 old guard is the first of the rock and roll era to grow up, raise families and achieve career success. They have remained attached to the music of their youth, now available in sleek boxed sets and compact disc compilations; in America, they have elected a capable saxophonist as president and are planning a second Woodstock concert. Musicians such as the Rolling Stones, the Velvet Underground and Paul McCartney still perform for them. Rarely has a cultural moment remained so resonant for so long.

More than ever, the burden of proof lies with the young to prove they can do better. Technology has enabled them to make music which is inaccessible to anyone over 21; but it has also made it too easy to rebel against existing musical forms. Popular culture is not the same as ephemera, as the pop musicians and DJs of the 1960s instinctively understood. Who will weep for their tyro successors 25 years from now?

Seeking redress in arms for Iraq case

From Mr Reginald Dunk

Sir, In his interesting interview published today, Paul Henderson, former managing director of Matrix Churchill, speaks of possible legal action against the government in pursuit of compensation for wrongful arrest, personal damage and the loss of his business.

Whereas the Matrix Churchill affair is obviously of far greater national significance, the comments by Lord Justice Scott last June (report, June 16) about my conviction for the alleged illegal export of weapons to Jordan/Iraq in 1985 should not be overlooked. The two are cast in the same mould.

From the evidence given at the Scott enquiry this year it seems that my company and I were the victims of what appears to have been an attempt to pervert the course of justice, involving Customs and Excise and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, by way of bringing diplomatic pressure on some of our defence witnesses just days before the trial. I was advised at the very last minute by counsel that there was absolutely no option but to change our plea to guilty.

Lord Justice Scott said in June that that collusion was "disgraceful". The FCO official, Sir Stephen Egerton, who was being interrogated about it and other matters, agreed that it was "a bad show". I of course had no knowledge that the witnesses had been interfered with until it was revealed in the Scott enquiry (for which I am very grateful).

As a result, I have already taken the first steps to overturn the verdict and seek appropriate damages. I am glad to learn that Paul Henderson is also taking legal advice, and I wish him every success in his efforts to get the compensation which, it seems to me, he, his company and its employees may well be due.

Yours sincerely,
R. W. DUNK,
Hilltop House, Cuckney,
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire,
September 27.

Tory agents

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, Mrs Hannah Scott (letter, September 25) says that "by dispensing with their agents... assuming an average yearly salary of £20,000... the Tory party would be better off by at least £12 million per annum". She is wrong. First of all there are 236 agents throughout the country, which at £20,000 would only amount to £4.72 million; secondly she takes no account of the funds which the agents raise. In my own constituency our agent directly raises over £50,000.

The agents in the Tory party are one of its greatest assets. Not only do they raise money, they organise election campaigns and motivate the membership. Constituencies which dispense with their agent do so at their peril. Rather than reducing the professional staff the Tory party should be increasing it in the constituencies.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD,
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Mark Pendlington

Sir, The haemorrhage of agents from the Conservative party is an alarming trend. So often, their salaries are seen as a soft target on constituency balance sheets at a time when the status of professional agents should be bolstered, so that they can get on with the job of leading the party organisation at such a critical time.

The positive way forward is for the party to address the question of central employment for agents, either in single or grouped constituencies. Talents need to be targeted more carefully now than ever before in the seats most in need of trained expertise.

An agent should be an investment in the future, not a dispensable functionary when times get tough.

Yours faithfully,
MARK PENDLINGTON,
The Cottage, Swan Street,
Ashwell, Hertfordshire.

Cost of living

From Mr Eric Fearon

Sir, I wonder if any of your readers has noticed that the fee charged by the Post Office for recorded delivery letters has recently gone up from 30 pence to 55 pence.

This, an increase of 83 per cent, is announced in a leaflet headed "Now Even Better".

Better for whom?

Yours faithfully,
ERIC FEARON,
60 Station Road, NZI.

From Mr K. Cox

Sir, The Times reduces its price whilst maintaining standards and service, and wins customers. British Rail increases fares whilst reducing standards and services, and loses customers.

There's a moral in there, somewhere.

Yours faithfully,
K. COX,
21 Tennyson Close,
Brigg, Lincolnshire,
September 21.

Business letters, page 29

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Selection process for QCs defended

From Sir Robert Megarry, FBA

Sir, Your article recounting various criticisms of the present system of appointing QCs (Barriers challenge QC secrecy, September 27) makes sad reading. The present "deeply flawed" system, which is "secret" and causes "an enormous amount of distress and anxiety", has been described by a former chairman of the Bar as "the Franz Kafka school of business management".

Suitability for appointment, it is argued, "is gleaned by officials from judicial comments", so that promotion within a self-regulating profession depends "on a government department" and on "unattributable judicial whispers", as well as on "patronage".

Perhaps I may describe the system as it worked while I was Vice-Chancellor (1976-85). Each year I received a list of all those who had applied for silk; and I sent a list of those who practised in the Chancery Division to each Chancery judge. At a meeting of us all every Chancery applicant was considered separately by each judge who knew the applicant (there were few who did not).

Views on each applicant's suitability for silk were often expressed very briefly (from alpha double plus down to gamma, or even lower), but more discursively for the marginals. Disagreements were not unknown. An anguished performance before Mr Justice A might have been followed by a deplorable collapse before Mr Justice B; but usually there was substantial unanimity. The test throughout was the applicant's suitability for silk, coupled with a universal desire to maintain the high standard of Chancery silks.

A summary of our views would then be sent to the Lord Chancellor, together with some consideration of the number of new Chancery silks needed to maintain an adequate level of choice for solicitors. Our views were

expressed loud and clear, and not as "judicial whispers". The Lord Chancellor would then hold a Heads of Division meeting, attended by the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Family Division and myself, each with views of other judges of his Division.

The discussion was usually confined to those who were neither obviously suitable for appointment nor obviously unsuitable. The final word, of course, lay with the Lord Chancellor, who would himself know some of the applicants judicially; but I never found the final list surprising.

The essence of the process was that the decision was based on the personal knowledge of those with no axe to grind who had seen and heard the applicants in court; and both as to character and ability, such appearances are wonderfully revealing.

Views on individual applications were not, of course, bruited abroad; but why the process itself should be called "secret" I do not know. I have often spoken of it openly at meetings and dinners, not least in Canada, where the greatly varying systems in the ten provinces and the dominion are not universally admired.

From your report there seem to be some who see an advantage in removing the Lord Chancellor and the judges from the process, and substituting the prime minister and "a panel of senior members of the profession". It does not appear how this would be in the public interest, as compared with leaving the matter to the judgement of those who, while exercising the impartiality of judicial office, have seen and heard the applicants in court. The judgement of judges may even be better than that of counsel.

I am, Sir,
R. E. MEGARRY,
5 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
September 27.

Charities and honesty

From Sir Geoffrey Chandler,
Chairman, National Council
for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, Alex Reed's article "On the alert to stop charity scandals" (September 23) is right to highlight the importance of high standards of accountability of charities. His assertion, however, that "only a tiny minority of charities would measure up under the most lenient of spotlights that commercial organisations have to face" does not accord with the facts.

Charities are subject to the scrutiny of their donors, of their trustees, and of those who use their services — sanctions as rigorous as any faced by commercial companies, even if different in kind.

Mr Reed's comment on "the scandals in the charity sector, increasing in regularity, that rock the confidence of the public" reads like scare-mongering.

Maladministration and malpractice

Video games

From Lord Hastings

Sir, I read your recent series on Nintendo, the computer game company (September 7-9), with interest and concern. Let me illustrate my concern by referring to the second of the articles, "Coming next: Sega and the felices".

John Waldern, the managing director of Virtuality, one of the leading global manufacturers of virtual reality (VR) games machines, is quoted as saying that "any machines to go into wide public use are subject to rigorous health and safety checks while tests have been conducted only on prototypes", and that his machines have been used by more than 5.5 million customers worldwide "without a single registered complaint".

This may be true, but there is considerable concern among leading researchers in this field about both the short-term and the possible long-term health effects that VR machines may have on users. There is also growing disquiet in the medical profession about the possible link between com-

puter games and epileptic seizures — something that has come to light several years after such games were introduced. It has been estimated that about one in 4,000 of the population has a natural liability to fits induced by video games.

I do not want to prejudice the issue, especially before publication of the results of current research in this area funded by the Department of Trade and Industry. However, I would suggest that until we have a better understanding about any possible health effects of computer games, parents should err on the side of caution.

Last week, at a meeting organised by this foundation, 11 international epileptologists agreed to collaborative research to detect the brain mechanisms underlying these seizure triggers, which should produce evidence to enable manufacturers to reduce the risks.

Yours faithfully,
HASTINGS (Chairman of Trustees),
The Epilepsy Research Foundation,
PO Box 3004, London W4 1XT,
September 27.

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Yours faithfully,
HASTINGS (Chairman of Trustees),
The Epilepsy Research Foundation,
PO Box 3004, London W4 1XT,
September 27.

Threat to London orchestras

From the Chairman of the British Association of Concert Agents

Sir, This association, along with almost all other interested bodies in this country, condemns the timing, handling, principles and methods of the Arts Council's decision to withdraw funding from two of London's five orchestras.

Quite apart from the cultural implications of their decision, which are deplorable and were well rehearsed in letters which you published in July and August, the timescale set by the council for its implementation is absurd. To give notice in July of the need to supply a tender in September or October with a decision by Christmas 1993 and severance of grants in April 1994, shows a total failure to understand the music business in which commitments have long been entered into with soloists, conductors and sponsors.

The decision, made in isolation, raises severe doubts as to whether the Arts Council has thought through a coherent policy and its ramifications. Having set the agenda, the council is now seeking the arguments to support it.

The members of the Arts Council's music advisory panel are each of them eminent in their various fields but they include nobody with any practical experience in running a symphony orchestra. We maintain that they do not represent the range of professional expertise and peer group assessment that the Arts Council claims and that it has been negligent in allowing this situation to arise.

It is also an outrageous breach of responsibility that the council now appears to administer implied government policy rather than to act as an independent advocate for the arts.

The guiding principle behind the formation of the Arts Council was the need for an independent, non-aligned body, accountable both to the public and to Parliament, over which the government of the day had no direct control on matters of artistic policy. It is time for the council to reaffirm its original ideals, so that it once more becomes an effective provider and protagonist for the arts, at arm's length from political interests. If it cannot do this, it should be axed without further delay.

Yours faithfully,
TOM GRAHAM,
Chairman, The British Association
of Concert Agents,
41a Lonsdale Road, W11,
September 24.

Concert lesson

From Mr Victor Hochhauser

Sir, Taking lessons with Sir Harrison Birtwistle, although most welcome, may unfortunately not have the "comic possibilities" envisaged by Richard Morrison ("Sir Harry rides into the fray", Arts, September 22). In addition to "things like 1812 and The Four Seasons", I would like to inform Sir Harrison that we have presented works by 49 composers in 1993 so far.

In addition you may be interested to know that we were responsible for the first performance in this country of Prokofiev's 6th symphony, Shostakovich's 4th, 8th, 13th, 14th and 15th symphonies, his two violin concertos, his two cello concertos and his oratorio *Stepan Razin*. We were the first to organise the performances of his complete cycle of 15 string quartets. We have also presented Sir Harrison's own music with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Pierre Boulez on the many foreign tours we have arranged for them.

Sir Harrison should realise that we try to present as great a variety of music as possible to reach the widest audiences, without the benefit of sponsorship or subsidies.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR HOCHHAUSER
(Managing Director),
Victor Hochhauser Concerts,
4 Oak Hill Way, NW3,
September 24.

Consumer index

From Mr Richard Butler

Sir, I notice from the City Diary (September 27) that 1,100 guests at the "all-night bash" at the Savoy to celebrate the re-opening of the Warner West End cinema consumed 580 bottles of champagne, 700 bottles of wine, up to 4,000 bottles of American beer, 700 lobsters, 80 chickens, 2,500 prawns and 800 scallops. Obviously the recession is still with us.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BUTLER,
Hamilton House,
1 Temple Avenue, EC4.

Weighty toms

From Mrs Anne Winton
and Mr Gavin Winton

Sir, Vikram Seth has been omitted from the Booker Prize short list on the grounds that *A Suitable Boy* is too long (report, September 23). We wondered if Tolstoy and Dostoevsky suffered similar disappointments?

Yours sincerely,
ANNE WINTON,
GAVIN WINTON,
The White House,
58 Portmore Park Road,
Weybridge, Surrey.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL JAMES DOOLITTLE

Lieutenant-General James Doolittle, who planned and led the first US air raid on Tokyo, in 1942, died in Pebble Beach, California, on September 27 aged 96. He was born in Alameda, California, on December 14, 1896.

IN HIS own opinion the daring Tokyo raid of April 1942 was not James Doolittle's greatest achievement. In a long career both in the US Army Air Force and outside it he had done many things, most of them supremely well. He was by turns a champion boxer, a mining engineer, a racing pilot, a wartime commander of large American bombardment groups and vice-president of one of the world's largest oil companies.

But, deservedly, his name catches the historical imagination as architect and leader of the first counterstroke against Japan in the black months which followed Pearl Harbor. Though in terms of material damage the raid was not a serious blow, it was a piece of totally unexpected daring which gave the Japanese much food for thought.

The triumphal march of Japanese arms throughout the whole Pacific area in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor had seemed to be so conclusive that no riposte from an apparently humiliated United States seemed possible. In Japan's "hundred days" after December 7, 1941, her troops, supported by a powerful navy and naval air force, had fanned out from Burma in the west to the Marshall Islands in the east. They had seized New Guinea and the Australian mainland was within bombing range.

Given this total preponderance of military and naval superiority, an attack on the Japanese homeland was the last thing her military leaders expected. Simply, it was out of range of American aircraft. If the American reaction to the bombing of Pearl Harbor had been, in the words of the commander of the US Pacific Fleet, "I never thought those little yellow sons of bitches could pull off an attack so far from Japan", then in the spring of 1942 a similar complacency reigned in the councils of the Japanese Imperial Navy. Only Doolittle believed otherwise.

Extraordinarily, James Doolittle was not actually a regular officer. He had been managing the aviation division of the Shell Oil Company during the prewar decade, and only returned for active duty with the US Army in 1940. His first task was the unglamorous — though necessary — one of helping car manufacturers to convert to aircraft production. It was only in 1942 that he was assigned to the Army Air Force headquarters in Washington. There he began the planning of his audacious



James Doolittle after his record-breaking flight from Mexico City to St Louis, Missouri in October 1931

mission. Indeed, Doolittle's role was initially to be that of planning the raid and training the crews. But he became so involved in the mission that in the end he decided to lead it himself.

Since the Japanese mainland was well beyond the range of American bombers, Doolittle decided to launch his 16 heavily-loaded North American B-25 Mitchells from an aircraft carrier. It was the first time that such a feat had ever been attempted. Since Tokyo was outside the B-25's combat radius there could be no return journey. Therefore, Doolittle and his band of 80 volunteers planned to fly on after dropping their bombs and make for two primitive landing strips in China.

The plan went awry when the carrier, USS Hornet, was spotted by a Japanese patrol boat some 350 miles from the proposed launch point. The enemy boat was sunk, but fearing their presence had been reported, Doolittle ordered his bombers to take off without further ado. The take-offs were themselves hazardous, as the lumbering bombers revved hard to get off the pitching flight deck of the carrier. One of the deck crew lost his arm, sliced off by a propeller. Eventually the 16 "wrecked" bombers, but because of their enforced premature take-off they now lacked the fuel to reach the Chinese landing strips.

Doolittle pressed home the attack at low altitude and without loss, dropping his bombs on Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Kobe and Nagoya. The material damage caused

was slight, but the psychological impact on both the United States public and the Japanese was immense.

Their fuel exhausted after a further nine hours flying, the crews of 11 bombers baled out — one of three occasions during Doolittle's flying career when his life was saved by a parachute. Most landed safely, but seven who jumped over Japanese-occupied China were captured, and three subsequently killed. The only other casualties were four crew members killed when four of the B-25s crash-landed near the Chinese coast. The sixteenth aircraft made it to Russia, where its crew were held for a year before escaping.

Doolittle was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Roosevelt, and instantly promoted to the rank of brigadier-general. The raid was immortalized two years later in the film *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, with Spencer Tracy playing the part of Doolittle.

In July 1942 Doolittle was sent to England where he oversaw the formation of the US 12th Air Force. In September he led that force in action in North Africa. The following year he was given command of the 15th Air Force in Italy.

From January 1944 until the end of hostilities in Europe, Doolittle was in England, commanding the 8th Air Force in its daylight raids against German cities. In contrast with Bomber Command's night "area offensive" the 8th Air Force stuck to precision attacks and on one occasion

Doolittle challenged the famous 617 "Dambusters" squadron, then led by Leonard Cheshire, to a bombing competition. General Spaatz, Doolittle's superior as commander of both the US 8th and 15th Air Forces, told Cheshire that Doolittle's pilots could show him "how to land a bomb in a pickle barrel". Alas, a war had to be fought and this intriguing contest never came off.

Later Doolittle moved to Okinawa, fighting under General Douglas MacArthur until VJ Day.

With the end of the war Doolittle returned to the Shell company, where he became vice-president and a director. But his public service was far from over. In 1951 he was a special assistant to the chief of staff of the US Air Force. Later he served on the president's Foreign Intelligence Board, and in 1956 became chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. In the latter position he was responsible for the production of missile fuels.

James Doolittle was the son of an itinerant carpenter-turned gold prospector in Alaska. Small and athletic, he won the Pacific Coast bantamweight boxing championship after the family's return to California, and showed an early interest in aviation by building a glider from plans in a popular magazine.

In 1917 he interrupted his studies at the University of California School of Mines to enlist as a flying cadet in the Army Signal Corps Reserve but spent the duration of the first world war as a flying instructor. He remained in the

Army in 1919, was commissioned, and in 1922 made the first non-stop crossing of America, flying from Florida to San Diego in 21 hours 19 minutes.

The Air Corps sent Doolittle to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1923 and he gained an MSc in 1924 and a DSc the following year, but flying was his first love. In 1925 he took training in high-speed seaplanes, and promptly won the Schneider Trophy race against fierce competition from British and Italian pilots.

From that time on Doolittle was rarely out of the headlines. In September 1929 he made the first ever "blind" flight, relying solely on instruments from take-off to landing. This helped to revolutionise commercial aviation.

Doolittle resigned his commission in 1930 and went to work for the Shell Oil Company. As manager of the aviation division he made European tours and competed in more air races. He also made another record-breaking flight, from Mexico City to St Louis, Missouri.

Ever since the end of the second world war, when Doolittle threw a monumental three-day party in Miami for the survivors of his raid on Tokyo, "Doolittle's Raiders" as they became known, have held an annual reunion. At the 50th anniversary in 1992, 40 were still living, and the bottle of vintage cognac awaiting a toast by the last two survivors remained unopened.

Doolittle's wife Josephine died in 1988. He is survived by one of their two sons.

THE RIGHT REV ERIC TRAPP

The Right Rev Eric Trapp, Bishop of Zululand, 1947-57, Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 1957-64, and Bishop of Bermuda, 1970-75, died on September 8 aged 83. He was born on July 17, 1910.



ERIC TRAPP was a man of great organisational and pastoral skills; a comparatively rare combination which proved to be invaluable in the various areas of work in which he was involved. In three very different spheres: as Bishop of Zululand for twenty years; as Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and its successor; and as Bishop of Bermuda, he was able to display these qualities to the full.

In the first instance, in Zululand, he breathed life into a virtually dormant diocesan organisation. In the second, at the SPG, he was able, through his friendship and understanding with John Kingsnorth, secretary of the Universities Mission to Central Africa, to bring about the union of the SPG and the UMCA. And in Bermuda he again brought a steady hand to the helm of a diocese which was, if not exactly all at sea, at least in need of firm command.

Eric Trapp came to SPG in 1957 as a very experienced missionary. Educated at Alderman Newton's School, Leicester, and Leeds University, he had trained at the College of the Resurrection, Miffield, before a three-year assistant curacy at St Olaves, Mitham, 1934-37.

Thereafter he went on to Basutoland as Director of the

Masie Mission. In 1940 he became Rector of Bethlehem in the Diocese of Bloemfontein and returned to Basutoland as Rector of Maseru, the capital, in 1943. In 1947 he was consecrated Bishop of Zululand, and was at the time one of the youngest bishops in the Anglican Communion.

Trapp brought a vigour to diocesan practice which was regarded as necessary in the circumstances, even where it was not always liked. To some, his removing the diocesan headquarters from the interior to the coast smacked of a compromise with South Africa's apartheid regime. But he was able to justify it on the grounds that it enabled him to get more help from white businessmen. He remained there for ten years before accepting the appointment as Secretary of the SPG at the age of 47.

In the early 1960s the Secretary of the Universities Mission to Central Africa was the Rev John Kingsnorth, whose London office was just opposite that of Bishop Trapp. Talking together, the two men

became convinced that it was wasteful to have so many missionary societies and wondered whether they might combine, as a first step towards the merging of all Anglican missionary societies. Trapp's vision was the inspiration, and his clear mind constantly anticipated difficulties and overcame them. The two societies merged in 1965 to become the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG).

After 13 years as Secretary of SPG and USPG, Trapp was asked, in 1970, to become Bishop of Bermuda. Many of his colleagues felt that this would be a waste of his experience and talents but he accepted the offer. The diocese was in a fairly disorganised state at the time of Trapp's appointment but he brought to it one very important thing. He was the first Bishop of Bermuda who did not have to learn his job on arrival. He had already been a bishop for 23 years.

Despite receiving a back injury during this time which left him temporarily paralysed, his experience and hard work culminated in the disestablishment of the Church in Bermuda just five years after his enthronement as bishop. In 1975, the year of Bishop Trapp's retirement, full legislative powers were transferred to the Synod of the Anglican Church in Bermuda.

On retirement from his Bermuda bishopric, Eric Trapp and his wife Edna, returned to England and settled in Hertfordshire where he served for five years as an honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of St Albans.

He leaves his widow Edna and two daughters.

JOSE de AZEREDO PERDIGAO

Jose Henrique de Azeredo Perdigao, chairman for 30 years of the Gulbenkian Foundation, died in Lisbon on September 10 aged 96. He was born on September 19, 1896.

WHEN he became chairman of the Gulbenkian Foundation in 1956, Azeredo Perdigao was one of the most prominent lawyers in Portugal and also one of the most controversial. On several occasions he had been challenged to duels which, although he never actually fought one, caused him to take up fencing, a skill he enjoyed and practised for many years.

Under his guidance the Gulbenkian Foundation became an oasis of culture in the desert of sterile materialism that afflicted Portugal during the years of the Salazar dictatorship. It was responsible for the development of modern art in Portugal and sponsored many young artists who later became famous. It also sponsored a ballet company, symphony orchestra, modern dance groups, experimental theatre, summer concerts and numerous other activities.

As one of Portugal's leading lawyers, Perdigao had been retained by — and subsequently became a friend of — Calouste Gulbenkian the Armenian millionaire oil magnate who had taken up residence in Portugal in 1946.

In 1928 Gulbenkian had been involved in negotiations over the future control of Middle East oil which allowed him to retain 5 per cent of the capital of several companies he had developed. The deal gained him the sobriquet of "Mr. Five Percent".

Gulbenkian was a philanthropist and art enthusiast, who had collected some 6,400 works of art spanning a 3,000-year period. As a local newspaper put it, "the union of a lawyer who dreamed of power and a magnate who wanted to be remembered by posterity spawned the foundation".

In 1953 Gulbenkian made a will which, after generous

bequests to his family and collaborators, left the remainder of his fortune to Portugal for the setting up of a foundation, the aims of which were to be "charitable, artistic, educational and scientific". It was governed by a board of which Azeredo Perdigao became chairman and which for the next 30 years carried out the plans laid down in the will.

Jose Henriques de Azeredo Perdigao had been born into a politically active and anti-clerical family. His father was a staunch Republican who became a deputy in the First

Republic which was set up in 1912 after the assassination of King Carlos and the subsequent exile of his son. Jose Henriques participated actively in all of his father's Republican activities.

At 18 he began studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law in Lisbon, where he was a flamboyant figure using a monocle and carrying a cane. He became part of a group of "modernists", which included the poet Fernando Pessoa and painter Almada Negreiros, and with them founded the magazine *Orpheu*. He took up various causes and became involved in political activities that caused him to be expelled from the Law faculty in 1919.

He finished his studies at Coimbra University, however, with high honours. The young lawyer set up in practice in Lisbon and at 24 married Alice Raquel Dantas da Silva, one

of the first women in Portugal to take a degree in law. They had a son and daughter. His practice and the routine of court cases did not prevent him from taking up causes and being interested in the arts. He joined a group of intellectuals and helped found a celebrated magazine called *Seara Nova*.

By 1926 the Republicans had become very unpopular because of inner squabbles, the rise and fall of governments, assassinations and the enormous debt, with the result that the Army moved in and took over to stop the chaos. Even though still opposed to authoritarian governments, Azeredo Perdigao accepted a civil service post in the Property Registry Office where he remained until 1933.

During this period he invested in real estate, which earned him large amounts of money and allowed him to live in great style.

His wife died of cancer in 1946, which affected him very much. He converted to Roman Catholicism in the early 1950s and became a close friend of the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, Goncalves Pereira. He also became very interested in medicine and medical research, activities to which he gave great attention when he became head of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Fourteen years after the death of his first wife, he met and married a widow, Madeleine Bassano, from Coimbra, 30 years his junior. His bride interested him in music and the plastic arts — fields which also received great attention from the Foundation. They had one son. She died in 1989, also of cancer.

Calouste Gulbenkian died in 1955. The last two years of Azeredo Perdigao's own life were marred by disputes among his sons and the nephew of Gulbenkian about who should succeed him. The board of directors finally declared him unfit to continue as chairman and named an 82-year-old former professor of Coimbra University to succeed him.

one. We are to protect the landing, which will begin at noon today, and only send a few boats to the great flotilla by which it is to be accomplished.

This ship has been decimated with cholera. They lost 140 men in less than a week, and had at one time 600 out of 950, ill. There were actually not enough left to work the ship. The most affecting instances are told of the devotion of the men to their comrades and of their own heroism. Not a single officer died, and the crew is now recruited by that of the Tiger and a batch of new arrivals from England. We have been now for two days off the shore of the Crimea. It is here low; a good deal like the Isle of Thanet — all corn-land and with very few houses. Inland it rises, into considerable hills. The troops are now quite healthy, and so is the fleet. The voyage has been made long for all the warm clothes I left in England, has brought round the conical wonder, fully to give you an idea of the feeling on board I will mention two instances. When they were heaving up the anchor this morning the men cried out, "We'll drop it in Sebastopol." Last night a very small mid., about 12, asked me if we should not land at daybreak? I asked why? "Because that's in my watch, and I shall go."

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THE NATIONAL DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Julia Llewellyn Smith watches a spin-doctor's meticulous plans to boost Ken Follett's worldwide book sales of 40 million

The hype behind a bestseller

Ken Follett has a busy day ahead of him. At 9.15 he has an interview with me, followed by half an hour live on the Richard Littlejohn show on LBC, a London radio station. Then 45 minutes with another report, a break for lunch, ten minutes live on Radio Wales and a session filming for *The Big Breakfast*, before rushing to the Bank of England museum for the launch party of *A Dangerous Fortune*, his latest bestseller.

The book is not yet on sale, but nobody has any doubt that a bestseller is what it will be. After all, Follett is a Master Storyteller who has sold 40 million copies worldwide of his novels of "sex, suspense and skulduggery". He is also, according to his publicity literature, a champagne socialist and the Labour party's answer to Jeffrey Archer. He is married to Barbara, lives in a 200-year-old house in Chelsea, has a house in Cannes and drives a red Bentley with the numberplate KEN 25P.

Such details are the stuff of book promotion fantasy. *Dangerous Fortune* went on sale as the Booker brouhaha was reaching a climax. Terry Waite's memoirs were being

reviewed everywhere and Susan Hill's *Mrs de Winter* was being serialised in a national paper.

In such a climate, publishers must work day and night to ensure their author a place in the media spotlight. But to get there, the writer has to be different. Publicists sniff out personal quirks like truffles, knowing that their revelation can be the only way to win the attention of a frazzled features editor or television producer.

It is no coincidence, therefore, that *A Dangerous Fortune* is being launched in the week of the Labour party conference, making Follett's party links ultra-topical.

Normally, Follett's novel would have been publicised by Pan Macmillan, the book's publishers. In this case, internal complications meant that the task was assigned to Julia Hobsbawm Associates, a company already responsible for Follett's personal PR, as well as the images of clients such as the Labour party, *The Face* magazine and Charter 88.

Ms Hobsbawm is fully aware of the importance of "personalising" an author. Others she has promoted include Rosie Thomas, whose novel, *Other People's Wives*, was



Ken Follett, left, in the LBC studio with presenter Richard Littlejohn, right. Julia Hobsbawm, centre, "personalises" her client and has sent out 300 copies of the novel

launched with a press release stating, "This powerful novel was written while the author's 18-year-old marriage to the literary agent Caradoc King was breaking up".

Ms Hobsbawm and an assistant, Kirsten Lass, have spent the past two months tackling their task. In a spirit reminiscent of Montgomery on the eve of El Alamein. In the first few weeks, 300 copies of the novel are sent to all national newspapers, the main regional papers, women's magazines and a long list of radio and TV chat shows.

Everything is done to make life pleasant for the journalist, from providing a detailed plot summary to giving away chocolate gold bars at the launch party. Call after cajoling follow-up call is made. Ms Hobsbawm says that every bit of

publicity secured took at least three telephone calls, plus a fax, plus a letter.

Every day, Follett is faxed an updated schedule. This details everything, from where he will park to whether make-up is required. He has been paranoid about minutiae ever since an encounter with a lax Italian PR resulted in being an hour late for lunch with the president of Italy.

Once organised, Follett is a docile participant in the publicity circus. Clearly he does not relish it, but he knows it is every bit as important as writing the book. "It's very gratifying to be asked these silly questions, although it can be a bit of a chore, especially towards the end of

the cycle," he says. "You have to keep going. Some people are visibly bored with me and who can blame them? You have to think, 'The hell with you, this isn't going to sell any books', and do your best to be entertaining and witty."

Rather than living in fear of probing questions, the problem for a man with a biography firmly on the record is that he never gets asked anything new. "People say, 'where do you get your ideas from?' as if they were the first in the world to have thought of it," he says.

Nonetheless, Follett admits to being equally guilty of encouraging a certain line of questioning. Queries about his champagne socialism are especially welcome. Journalists think that they are probing an important issue and

seem unaware they are all getting the stock answer.

"I tell them that just because I am no longer living in a one-bedroom flat doesn't mean I have lost the values I had then," he says. "I tell them that many people in Europe are socialists and nobody thinks it's strange there."

So far, such an approach has produced what Ms Hobsbawm calls "PR heaven", the mainstay being a *Sunday Times* magazine piece, by Martin Jacques, the former editor of *Marxism Today*, that ended with the line, "That's what I like about Ken Follett."

The morning we meet is the only time he looks likely to face any pressure. He will be talking to Richard Littlejohn, who was named "irritant of the year" for his

column in the *Sun*, and is not noted for left-wing sympathies.

Maybe Littlejohn is doped, maybe he is distracted, maybe he genuinely likes Ken Follett, but for 20 minutes he does nothing more controversial than discuss the novel, asking about the main characters. There are five minutes left, when he gently points out that he is talking to a millionaire, who claims to be a socialist. "Just because I no longer live in a one-room flat..." begins Follett. There is nothing to fear.

CORRECTION

The agency handling the Mercury account is Woolams, Moira, Gaslin, O'Malley and not Abbott Mead Vickers as stated last week.

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"Watching a camera crew at work in a refugee camp is a shocking experience."

Alex de Waal reviews a new book that finds distortion at every turn of the lens

The bungled American assault on a UN building in Mogadishu last month was a precious opportunity for disaster relief workers to laugh at their own business, with a clear conscience. The US Rangers descended from their helicopters on to a clearly marked UN building and arrested, not General Aidid, but eight UN officials. Disaster relief is full of ironic comedy, but rarely are the bungles unmarked by bloodshed or hunger. A few months in the field leaves any aid worker with enough stories of hilarious ineptitude or corruption to write a satire to rival *Catch-22*. Moreover, the protagonists of these crimes and blunders are imbued with a profound sense of their own importance, and the righteousness of their cause. But we are still waiting for *Oh What a Lovely Famine*.

In *Disasters, relief and the media*, Jonathan Benthall remarks: "Like sex within marriage, organised humanitarian relief is one of those topics of which there are few imaginative descriptions, because writers do not think of them as having interesting potential, and are constrained by stereotypical assumptions." This is accurate and perceptive, but there is more to it than that.

Watching a television camera crew at work in a refugee camp or war hospital is a shocking experience. The team searches out the most emaciated children for their shots; they are drawn by the screams of the wounded.

Television correspondents know exactly what they need to fill their precious few minutes on the evening news. Benthall identifies their reports as classic folk-tale narrative: a familiar cast telling their story in graphic pictures. An opening shot of a remote location, safely distant and with the familiar elements of the genre. A crowd of

anonymous wail-like victims; then focus on a single figure, or a mother and child, stoical but helpless and imploring help. Their plight is explained by a sombre aid worker, almost always white: someone the viewers can readily identify with. "These are the lucky ones," she says. Then, enter the villains: cold-hearted bureaucrats or sleek, cruel gunmen who are obstructing aid. The last word goes to the hero, the foreign-aid workers again: "unless we do more, unless more food arrives, these people will die." This cast is already more complex than the routine of a decade ago, when "natural disaster" commonly played the role of villain.

For the journalist, this folk tale is no contrivance: it is how he (rarely she) experiences the disaster, hosted and guided by the white relief workers, who implicitly script the narrative. Many news reports are little more than relief-agency commercials. This is not exceptional. Some Gulf war reportage was little more than Pentagon commercials — but the infamous "pool" system, the selective military briefings, and the army's subtle ways of developing team loyalty among correspondents to "their" units has since been much criticised.

Similarly, no editor would let such footage and storylines pass if they dealt with the Zeebrugge ferry disaster, or another "story" closer to home — which the victims or their relatives might actually watch and complain about. So routine is this story-telling, that few journalists realise the violence they are doing to reality. A Somali doctor confronted a TV correspondent: "You go to a feeding centre with a thousand children. Two hundred are bad... some of those are very bad. Why do you select just the few who are severely malnourished?"



"Unless we do more... more people will die," journalists and aid workers again send out the message

The journalist replied: "To help raise funds." The doctor said: "So you tell lies to get people to pay money?"

Fortunately, few specialist foreign correspondents, especially for newspapers, produce such pastiche. Not only do they have some knowledge of complicated political realities and some sensitivity to the people who are the "victims", but

they are also aware of the code of conduct painstakingly developed by the thinking aid agencies over the decades. These agencies' own publicity material, and the briefings they give to journalists, stress the need to avoid racist stereotypes, to present ordinary people in poor countries as dignified and hard-working, and to put their suffering in a wider political context.

All journalists strive to emulate the great disaster scoops. Michael Buerk and Mohamed Amin's reports of Ethiopian famine for the BBC news in October 1984 changed the course of emergency relief history. Jane Perlez's *New York Times* articles on Somalia prompted George Bush into action when months of lobbying had failed to make an impression.

Neither of these scoops uncovered a new story; rather, they told a known story in a more graphic and extreme manner. These "successes" put foreign correspondents in an invidious position. They have adopted the relief agencies as their disaster ombudsmen, and seem unable to escape their demands. When the media are absent (as in Angola today), they are courted and criticised for lack of interest. When present, they are castigated for over-dramatising and reversion to the stereotypical storyline. This is the dilemma for the sensitive journalist: disaster pornography and reassuring archetypes are needed to make a disaster into front-page news; then the journalistic pack follows, and coverage degenerates. Benthall takes the analysis this far, but it would be possible to go further.

Emergency aid sent in such a moral panic is rarely handled well. But even among the specialist correspondents, the idiocies and crimes of disaster relief operations are largely taboo. Only in the past year has it become permissible to write of the abuse of power, cynical self-enrichment and callous indifference of the international aid bureaucracy based at the UN. Aid workers are literate, too, and often cynical, but the shelves full of reports on every element of aid operations, contain virtually nothing on corruption and incompetence.

Why this extraordinary self-politicking? Moral censure keeps the apostates in line. After all, it is an article of faith that aid is a fundamentally important business. Who would want to be blamed for halting an emergency relief operation, because they laughed at a few redeemable bungles? Who wants to be bracketed with the right wingers who believe aid is a waste of taxpayers' money, and the UN merely a platform for subversives? It takes far more courage to take on the good than to attack the evil.

The weak point in this edifice is the victims of the disaster themselves. A generation ago, African schoolboys vicariously delighted in the exploits of Cecil Rhodes, only later discovering they were cast as the savages, not the saviours.

Today, Africans are consumers as well as unwitting subjects of the manufacture of news stories by the media corporations. Kenyans learn about events in Somalia, a neighbouring country, by watching CNN; most domestic news channels in the continent survive by subscribing to networked news services. Rebel commanders in southern Sudan have been reported gathering their starving people in the most photogenic ways to make journalists' copy. Southern Africans are arguing that next time they must schedule their famine for the Christmas season, so as not to miss the charitable bonanza.

Meanwhile, the dividing line between fact and fiction is becoming blurred. In the forests of Liberia, teenage guerrillas watch imported American *Rambo* and pornography videos, and model their atrocities on the violence they see on screen. Some have speculated that they learnt the tactic of terrorist murlatinn by watching reports from Mozambique.

There is, however, an articulate minority who understand the images and the damage they are doing. And now, Europeans are being subjected to the same distortions and humiliations. The disaster relief business and the media disaster tourists are present en masse in Bosnia. The hypocrisy, profiteering and prostitution taken to the country by the UN troops have left the humiliated citizens pleading "we were not like this before". Sooner or later, the international humanitarian system will be torn apart by the wrath of such people.

Benthall has written an excellent and important book. Having understood how our images of disaster are created, we can then approach the disaster of disaster relief with the honesty needed to reform it.

● This article first appeared in *The Times Literary Supplement*. The writer is co-director of African Rights, a human rights organisation. *Disasters, relief and the media* is published by IB Tauris, £14.95.

Britain's biggest-selling newspaper is 150 years old this weekend. What is its secret?

Publish and be vulgar



All human life is here: a selling slogan since 1843

Peter Earle, a reporter, turned up unannounced on a doorstep to be confronted, as so often, by a suspicious woman. He introduced himself but before he could continue she snorted: "How do I know you're really from the *News of the World*?"

"Madam," Earle replied indignantly, "I've just admitted it."

This story of 30 years ago, perfectly illustrating the paper's sleazy reputation, has been endlessly re-told by *News of the World* reporters ever since. It is certain to be recalled at the weekend when Britain's biggest-circulation newspaper, which it has been throughout the century, celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Down the years it has been derided by the intelligentsia, vilified from the pulpit, condemned by the Palace, denounced by the judiciary and maligned by its press peers. But the Sunday paper's mixture of scandal, slapstick and sport has captivated the British working class in its millions.

How this would have pleased John Brown, the paper's founder, who started it on October 1, 1843, with an egal-

itarian declaration of intent: "Our object is to establish a First Class Journal at a Price which shall place it within the reach of All Classes of Readers. Our arrangements have been made without regard to expense. And we encourage the hope that public opinion will pronounce the *News of the World* the Best as well as the Largest and Cheapest of all the newspapers that are published."

Bell's formula for winning sales was hardly new: sex and death, sex and crime and, well, sex. But the descriptions of hangings and the salacious court reports were published alongside critical coverage of the Crimean War, where Our Boys suffered more from their own generals than from the enemy's.

These war reports gave the *News of the World* its original circulation boost.

although when Bell died it was selling barely 30,000. By 1891, the paper was in financial trouble and the Bell family sold it to Henry Lascelles Carr. The change of ownership brought together two remarkable men: George Riddell, as manager, and Emsley Carr as editor. In an era of autocratic and eccentric proprietors, Riddell perfectly fitted the bill. Though moving among the great and the good, he made no attempt to modify

its content. When he was ennobled, Riddell was dubbed the Pornographic Peer by the jealous Beaverbrook.

Carr, who edited the paper for a record 50 years until 1941, supplied a diet of divorce hearings, court reports of sex crimes and reader-participation contests. At his death, the paper was selling four million and it went on rising throughout the war, despite being only few broadsheet pages. By the standards

of today, the bowdlerised court reports appear tame but readers knew the code: molested meant raped and "clothing disarranged" meant sexual assault. "Intimacy took place" sounds so much more erotic than bonking.

In June 1950, the paper achieved an unsurpassed circulation of 8,443,000. The *News of the World* was read by 48 per cent of Britain's adult population.

Under the famous slogan, "All human life is here", lifted from Henry James, the paper offered readers more than crime and sex. There were short stories by H.E. Bates and Somerset Maugham, political comment by Winston Churchill and Aneurin Bevan and a hugely popular sports-hall contest. But the paper had reached its peak. Sales declined badly throughout the 1960s despite

successful changes of direction by the editor Stafford Somerfield. Court reports gave way to investigations of scandals such as the Profumo Affair and the serialisation of celebrity memoirs. The paper also became famous for stunts. But millions of readers gave up the habit and money was wasted until in 1968 Rupert Murdoch bought the paper.

Though sales have since fallen, the now-tabloid paper has maintained its top position, selling 4.6 million. Patsy Chapman, the present editor, has restored its tradition for reporting crime. There is still plenty of sex but it's saucy rather than sordid. She says: "When I was a child I was fascinated by those reports which included the phrase, 'The act took place'. I knew it was too rude to ask my mother about them. We've come a long way since then but I don't think being explicit wins readers. It's still stories that sell newspapers."

Up to a point. The *News of the World*'s continued success reminds us all that, in Britain, vulgarity is always in vogue.

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and cricket's
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RUNNING FOR
FUN:
TEAM RESULTS
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THE TIMES

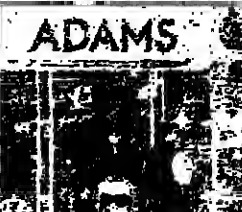
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1993

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BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

COST CUTS



ADAMS
Sears returned to the
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heavy rationalisation at
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RATE CUTS

Michel Camdessus, the
IMF managing
director, believes there
is still room for interest
rate cuts in Europe
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JOB CUTS



Barclaycard overheads
are too high so 400 jobs
are to be cut to save the
credit card group £15
million
Page 26

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5063 (-0.0050)
German mark 2.4541 (-0.0107)
Exchange index 80.1 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 3038.9 (+10.6)
Dow Jones 3564.90 (-2.80)
Nikkei Ave 20172.72 (+78.61)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 6.5%
US Federal Funds 3.4%
3-month Treasury Bills 2.90-2.85%
Long Bond 5.92%

CURRENCIES

New York
£/\$ 1.5165
£/DM 2.4471
£/Sfr 2.1538
£/Yen 169.80
£/ECU 1.2511
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$)
AM 354.25 PM 355.75
Close 355.50-356.10
New York
Comex 355.05-355.55

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 141.8 August (1.7%)
* Denotes midday trading price

Business tells Clarke not to raise taxes

By COLIN NARBROUGH

BRITAIN'S two leading business organisations have warned Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, not to raise taxes in the Budget on November 30 for fear of killing the fledgling recovery.

The Institute of Directors and Confederation of British Industry delivered their warnings with a view to influencing Conservative opinion in the run-up to the party conference.

Mr Clarke replied immediately from Washington last night that he intends to concentrate expected tax increases next year on consumers, instead of businesses, and on consumption, instead of income. He said he would rely, wherever possible, on indirect rather than direct taxation.

The IoD, in its Budget submission, called for the government to give priority to public spending cuts, urging the Chancellor to slash £20 billion from expenditure by 1995-6. Peter Morgan, the IoD director-general, said the cyclical element of the deficit will resolve itself, but the structural problem, caused by public spending rising too high and too fast, could be resolved "only by cuts in public spending".

In the March Budget, Norman Lamont, then Chancellor, forecast that the public sector borrowing requirement would reach £50 billion this fiscal year.

The IoD submission, masterminded by Ann Robinson, head of its policy unit, even proposed that Mr Clarke should make a modest cut in taxes to help reinforce the fragile pickup in economic activity. The IoD proposes tax cuts costing about £1.3 billion in

the coming fiscal year and £4 billion the following year.

Mr Morgan said: "Tax increases will not provide a quick fix for the Budget deficit. They would encourage more government spending, leaving the deficit as large as before and the difficulty of correcting it even more intractable."

The IoD called for tax cuts to offset the £10.5 billion in extra taxes arising from the March Budget. The main demand for the November Budget is a freeze on the uniform business rate to help smaller companies overcome the after-effects of recession.

Other key demands are for reductions in corporation and capital gains taxes to foster the flow of capital and finance to small and growing firms. The IoD said cost savings could be secured through pay restraint,

tighter controls on welfare spending and contracting out services. It also wants asset sales renewed.

The CBI, whose formal presentation of its Budget shopping list is scheduled for today, echoed the IoD's concern about the recovery, and the threat higher taxes would pose. Sudhir Shankar, the CBI's deputy director of economic affairs, told a conference that increasing the tax burden could endanger the climbback from a severe recession, especially if interest rates were not lowered. He emphasised that the government was intending to bring in £6.5 billion of tax increases in the coming fiscal year. There was a "risk that further tax rises may hit consumer and business confidence and hamper the pace of the recovery".

The Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) called in its budget submission yesterday for an immediate increase in industry's allowance for writing down new plant and machinery from 25 per cent to 40 per cent a year. It also called for further increases in the writing down allowance in subsequent years until the full 100 per cent is reached, not later than fiscal 1997-98.

Keen to emphasise that investment is the key to economic growth, the EEF took a softer line than the IoD and the CBI on possible tax increases.

Robinson: call for tax cuts

IMF call for cuts, page 26



Richard Holland, chief executive, sounding a cautious note on prospects for the full year

Japan spoils music at Boosey

RECESSION in Japan held back Boosey and Hawkes, the instrument maker and music publisher, which reported a small drop in pre-tax profits from £1.44 million to £1.41 million for the six months to June 30 (Susan Gilchrist writes). The interim dividend is held at 6p.

The publishing division, which has the copyright for composers such as Strauss, Stravinsky and Rachmaninov, achieved "steady" growth. The instrument division was hit harder by recession, particularly in Japan, which accounts for a quarter of group sales.

Richard Holland, chief executive, is cautious about full-year prospects but believes EC-wide harmonisation of the copyright term to 70 years will boost long-term income flows. He said there had been no new developments in the group's claim against Walt Disney for unauthorised use of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* in the video release of *Fantasia*.

Closures put Coal under new fire

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Coal's new round of pit closures and job losses has provoked an outcry among mining trade unions and Labour party leaders, with some warning of even more colliery closures beyond the nine expected to shut by the spring.

The revelation that only 12 mines seem sure to survive beyond summer next year, reported in *The Times* yesterday, prompted fresh attacks on British Coal and the government by unions and Labour leaders attending the party conference in Brighton.

Robin Cook, shadow trade and industry secretary, said the planned further closures were an inevitable consequence of the white paper on coal and of the "rigged" market for coal. He said the government's proposed subsidies for coal had not worked; not a single ton of extra coal had been sold, or more markets found.

Labour delegates approved a resolution, against the advice of the executive committee, that was sharply critical of the pit closure programme. All sides were united in attacking British Coal's plans, revealed in a report yesterday in *Coal UK*, an industry newsletter. British Coal dismissed the report as speculation.

Richard Caborn MP, Labour chairman of the Commons trade and industry committee, said there was "no doubt" that closures on the scale reported by *The Times* would happen. Pits were "spewing out" coal at the rate of 1 million tonnes a month, and there was enough coal stockpiled to last for a year.

Confirming the closure figures suggested by *Coal UK*, he said closures were "inevitable". "Unless they intervene and control the dash for gas," he added, "there is no way they can sustain the present number of pits."

Mirror share sale heads for success

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

THE sale of a 54.8 per cent stake in Mirror Group Newspapers appears to have gone well, judging from last night's decision by NM Rothschild, joint lead manager, to call a halt to the international book-building exercise, well ahead of Friday's deadline.

News of the striking price will be announced by 8.30am today — with institutions informed of their allocations.

Rothschild refused to give any indication of the likely striking price, but it is no secret that the managers to the issue have been hopeful of securing one close to 170p. On

the London Stock Exchange, MGN's share price slipped 3p to 177p, capitalising the company at just under £710 million. The swift completion of the book-building exercise indicates significant interest from City institutions but gives little away as to the price fund managers will want to pay.

The sale is being carried out on behalf of John Talbot, of Arthur Andersen, the joint administrator of the late Robert Maxwell's web of private companies. A striking price of 170p would raise £373 million; one of 165p would raise £362 million. Rothschild and

Cazenove called in an array of City talent to facilitate the book-building exercise. SG Warburg, NatWest Securities and James Capel are joint lead managers. They were joined by Nomura International, Hoare Govett Securities, Paribas Capital Markets and Swiss Bank Corporation as co-managers.

Macmillan Inc, the US publishing house and the final US asset of Robert Maxwell, will be sold within a month in a blind bid auction in New York at an expected \$2 billion loss. Mr Maxwell paid \$2.6 billion for the publisher in an acrimonious 1988 takeover, but the sale price is unlikely to be much above \$700 million. In the year to last March, Macmillan profits dived almost 40 per cent, to \$38 million, on sales of \$682 million. Barring last-minute surprise candidates, the leading finalists are Pearson, the UK publishing group; Harcourt Brace, the US publisher; Paramount Communications, the Hollywood studio; and K-III Communications, the American magazine and books group.

Stock market, page 28
Mirror aftermath, page 29

Getting off the money merry-go-round

Any attempt to say a final word about this year's annual International Monetary Fund meeting must include an urgent call for a speedy conclusion of the Uruguay Round. There, that's done! Declarations of support for a Gatt deal became a mantra in Washington for the simple reason that the world's rich nations feel they are running out of options in the growth game.

The limits of monetary policy stimulus have already been reached in Japan and the US and will presumably, be hit within the next six months or so in Europe. Provoking growth through fiscal policy is also out because, apart from Japan, everyone is carrying such large deficits. Those deficits also mean that the industrialised countries feel unable to create demand through the back door by financing the development of the emerging economies which, if they were healthier, would become voracious importers of G7 products.

David Roche of Morgan Stanley noted recently that 70 per cent of US growth in the last cycle was in exports and 70 per cent of growth in US exports was to "emerging" economies. "A Chinese paid to make a car to

export to the West will end up buying one himself". But, as the Chancellor said in Washington, the industrialised world is stretched. Two of the IMF's most important agenda items founded because of it. The IMF called, without success, for a new allocation of special drawing rights to bolster the reserves of many new members. The IMF also failed to persuade the formerly rich countries to put the money up for a new enhanced structural adjustment facility to help development in the poorest countries.

If there was one message from the IMF it was that growth is hard to come by in the developed world but potentially huge in the developing world. But short-term budget restraints in the former threaten the latter. There are clearly ways in which some generosity now would pay economic dividends in the future and ways in which current policies create a money merry-go-round that profits nobody. Take the question of debt relief, which Japan is holding out

against, though it is patently obvious that this debt is never going to be repaid. Opposition to debt write-offs is clearly counterproductive if scarce overseas aid resources are poured into developing countries only to be diverted straight out again in the form of debt repayments.

Debt owed to governments is only part of the problem. In sub-Saharan Africa, the multilateral agencies, mainly the IMF and World Bank, accounted for 36 per cent of debt service payments in 1991. These account for more than 10 per cent of export earnings for eight countries, including Kenya, Ghana and Madagascar, and for over a third of export earnings in the case of Uganda and Zambia.

Neither the IMF nor the World Bank is allowed to reschedule or write off debt. The IMF received a net transfer of more than \$3 billion between 1983 and 1990. As Oxfam points out, in practice this means that development resources provided by

the West are being diverted to the fund. In addition, "concessional lending from the World Bank's soft-loan arm, the International Development Association, which ought to be financing recovery, is being recycled in a similar fashion, making the short trip across 19th Street in Washington into the accounts of the IMF". This is clearly not an efficient use of the resources of the industrialised world.

Although it will probably mean a lost opportunity, western governments will probably go on compromising on support for the potential new engines of economic prosperity in the developing world and concentrate on putting their own houses in order. Efforts to break out of the current growth sclerosis will proceed on a number of fronts in the developed world — all of them extremely difficult. There will be attempts to bring fiscal positions back into balance, a tortuous process when growth is so anaemic. There will be much talk about structural reform to enhance competitiveness, terribly uninspiring for politicians on short electoral cycles. And, when all that becomes too much of a headache, there will be a lot of blind faith that Gatt will produce its promised bonanza.



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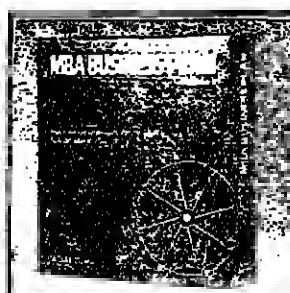
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Director disqualifications climbed to record 651 last year



Large: reviewing powers

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

A RECORD 651 directors were declared "unfit" and disqualified from running a company in the year to March, with the bulk banned only after their firms had failed, according to the government's annual report on companies. In the previous year, disqualifications totalled 460.

Trade department figures also showed 1,083 cases were considered by its investigations division, the highest ever and a jump of 233 from the previous year. They led to 187 statutory probes, mainly into alleged misconduct, fraudulent trading and theft.

However, only eight successful trials resulted from DTI enquiries, less than half the number in 1991-92, resulting in the

conviction 19 people, down from 31. The worst penalties imposed were £10,000 fines and prison sentences of four years. Of the directors barred, a total of 178 were disqualified following conviction for company-related offences.

Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), said his financial sector watchdog was taking a close look at its role and powers in catching and punishing market abuse. He said the SIB had been considering how it could play its part in dealing with general market abuse, including insider dealing and market manipulation.

Both qualify as criminal offences in Britain, but the regulatory authorities have found that the standards of proof required

make it costly and difficult to establish guilt. Mr Large said the SIB should have wide powers to carry forward the investigation of serious cases, drawing on information provided by its surveillance department and other regulators.

The DTI report, *Companies 1992-93*, covers the activities of the department's investigations and insurance divisions, Companies House and the insolvency service. It gives details of incorporations, liquidations, investigations and prosecutions. Company law developments at national and EC levels are also reviewed.

The majority of 187 statutory probes were carried out under the Section 447 of the Companies Act 1985, which allows the DTI to gain access to company records without

prior warning. Most of the 171 cases of this type were conducted by internal investigators.

Ten petitions were also presented to the courts last year seeking the winding-up of companies in the public interest. They led to the winding-up of nine companies. A further four were wound up as a result of earlier petitions.

Last year saw only one appointment of inspectors, to look into the late Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group Newspapers, under Section 432(2) of the Companies Act 1985. This is invoked when there is a suspicion of fraud, misconduct or the misleading of shareholders.

Five cases of possible insider dealing were referred to the DTI by the stock exchange,

but inspectors were appointed to investigate on only one. Six prosecutions for insider dealing were started last year.

While the numbers of directors disqualified and Section 447 investigations went up, the report shows that the compliance rate for companies filing annual returns and accounts rose to 88 per cent in June this year from 85 per cent a year earlier. Penalties were introduced last year for late filing of accounts.

Some 109,000 companies were incorporated last year, despite the recession, but 154,000 companies had their names removed from the Companies House books. The speed of registration was improved to an average four working days from five.

Lloyd's to face proxy pressure

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 17,000 Lloyd's names are being asked to hand over their voting papers to action groups, to try to force Lloyd's to amend its rules for introducing corporate capital. The chairmen of the action groups have written to their members asking them to send in their proxy forms, so enough clout can be mustered to put pressure on Lloyd's. Although the groups endorse the introduction of corporate capital from the start of next year, many are concerned that the rules for this are not in existing names' interests.

They aim to win changes before the crucial vote on October 20. Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, which represents more than 2,500 loss-making names, said: "Proxies are pouring in. All we are trying to do is have a dialogue about the introduction of corporate capital."

Peter Middleton, the Lloyd's chief executive, who met action groups yesterday, said: "It is a matter for individual names whom they lodge their proxies with."

□ Lloyd's has appointed Joe Bradley as managing director of its new central services unit, created to provide administrative services to members' agents and Lloyd's advisers, and to save Lloyd's £15 million a year.

Camdessus says Europe has room for interest rate cuts

■ Promising economic developments of the past decade have failed to bear fruit. Instead the world's economic problems are feeding on each other, according to the IMF

MICHEL Camdessus, International Monetary Fund managing director, told the IMF World Bank annual meeting there was still room for interest rate cuts in Europe.

Pointing to growth that remained "anaemic at best," he said there was more room for interest rate cuts to bring Europe out of its recent recession, singling out Germany for action. He said unemployment levels were "intolerable" and economic progress had utterly bypassed the poor.

M Camdessus painted a bleak picture of the world economy and said the promising developments of the last decade had failed to bear fruit.

"Many expectations born of developments only a little while ago — the end of the Cold war, the growth of the industrial economies... and the progress of European integration, to name a few — have been disappointed," he said. The biggest concern was that the problems of the world economy are feeding on one another, multiplying their damaging effects.

"Recession," he said, "not only increases human deprivation, but also intensifies protectionist pressures, and injects a virus that can be deadly, into even the best established instruments of economic co-operation." Unemployment

in the industrial world is expected to rise to 32 million this year — three million more than at the deepest part of the recession a decade ago. "This is intolerable," he said.

Lloyd Bentsen, US Treasury Secretary, agreed, telling the opening session of the three-day annual meeting unemployment was "unacceptably" high and world economic growth needed to be revived.

"The name of the game is jobs — it's our primary responsibility," Bentsen said. "We are moving in the right direction but there's certainly more that we can do." M Camdessus painted the grim picture just three days after the world's seven richest industrial nations gathered for the fourth time this year, seeking ways to boost world growth.

But in various comments over the past days, European and Japanese finance officials have made clear that they feel the worst is over and recovery is just around the corner.

M Camdessus countered, however, saying that with inflation under control in the

industrial world, there was room for more action in the form of interest rate cuts.

As the recovery gathers steam, industrial countries must then act to cut burgeoning government budget deficits, freeing up money for expansion by private business. Without concerted action, he said, the world will fail to make progress and the poorest of the poor will be caught in an unending cycle of poverty.

"The main problem in the developing world is that economic progress has been so uneven, bypassing hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people. Many developing countries have made little or no progress in the past 10 or even 20 years in raising living standards," he said.

On the former Soviet bloc nations struggling to create market economies, he said the IMF was unwilling to loosen its requirements for economic reform before it sends more money there.

Paris hopeful, page 12
Janet Bush, page 25



Michel Camdessus singled out Germany for action

Lloyd Thompson shares hit by 20% payout rise

LLOYD Thompson Group, the London market insurance broker, raised pre-tax profits by 21 per cent to £17.4 million in the year to end-June. The shares fell sharply, however, after the final dividend was lifted by 20 per cent to 4.7p, for a 6.7p total. The City had expected the company to match the 21 per cent rise in the interim dividend. Failure to do so knocked 15p off the shares to 286p, with analysts believing it marked the start of a slowdown in profits growth.

Roman Cizdyn, an insurance analyst at Smith New Court, said that the company was upbeat and that the 20 per cent payout rise "was not meant to send a signal to the market". The profits rise reflected growth in brokerage income, maintained investment income and strict control on expenses. Brokerage income grew 13 per cent to £41.1 million, in spite of harsh trading conditions caused in part by the contraction of capacity in the London insurance market. The strong dollar accounted for about half the rise in brokerage income, 80 per cent of which is generated in dollars.

GrandMet in SA link

GRAND Metropolitan, the food and drinks group, says its Pillsbury subsidiary has agreed a joint venture with the Table Top division of South Africa's Foodcorp. The agreement is to manufacture and sell Pillsbury products throughout the southern part of the African continent. Pillsbury and Table Top will form a company, Pillsbury Africa Ltd (PAL), to manufacture Green Giant vegetable products and Pillsbury baked goods.

Midland US funding

MIDLAND Bank has issued \$250 million of non-cumulative preference shares, it said. "The issue consists of 10 million American Depositary Share Units, Series A, representing Series A Dollar preference shares, and will pay a gross dividend of 8.875 per cent per annum." The preference shares have a \$25 liquidation value and are callable at Midland's option after five years. This is the first issue in the US dollar preference share market. Merrill Lynch was lead manager.

Bass selling 111 pubs

THE public house retailing division of Bass, Britain's biggest brewer, is selling 111 pubs to Mercury Taverns of Tamworth, Staffordshire, for an undisclosed sum. Bass said the package comprised 38 tenanted and 73 managed pubs in the Midlands, north-west England and South Wales; 20 were leasehold. The sale will be completed by the end of October. The cash consideration represents less than 1 per cent of Bass's net assets.

Cinema deal agreed

MICHAEL Buckley, who left SelectTV after a boardroom split, is moving back on to the big screen. Now chairman of Wilton, he has struck a deal with United Artists Theatre Circuit of America for a 50-50 joint venture to develop and manage cinemas in Asia. Wilton is little more than a shell company, with shares quoted on the USM at 1/4p. Clive Ng, a Malaysian businessman with cable-TV interests, was brought in as deputy chairman in July.

Allied London ahead

ALLIED London Properties raised pre-tax profits from £15 million to £6.8 million in the year to June 30, exaggerated by a £3.5 million provision in the previous year, and excluding this, profits rose 36 per cent in the period. Allied's properties were worth £180 million at the year end, down 2.5 per cent on a like for like basis on the previous year giving a 5p dip in net asset value to 85p. The company is holding the year's dividend at 3.5p, covered by 5p earnings (1.5p).

SB sells in Italy

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the pharmaceuticals group, is selling part of the assets and businesses of its wholly owned Italian arm to Procter & Gamble on undisclosed terms. P&G is buying five SB products with annual sales of more than \$40 million. About 125 SB sales representatives will join P&G's Italian company. The brands being sold include three antibiotics, an osteoporosis treatment and a product for relief of rheumatoid and osteoarthritis.

China project funding

FUNDING for a joint venture to build a hotel, shopping and office complex in Peking is to be raised through a £28.4 million placing and open offer by Cathay International. Cathay is issuing 48.8 million new shares at 62.5p each. Existing shareholders will have the right to buy four new shares for every 19 held. Cathay International Investment, a private company owning 69 per cent of the listed company's shares, will take only 1 million of its 33.7 million entitlement.

German pay deal scrapped

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

GESAMTMETALL, the German employers' organisation, has delivered a veiled threat to IG Metall, the metalworkers' union, that it could demand pay cuts to help overcome high labour costs in recession-gripped west Germany.

Instead of waiting for the traditional union signal for next year's wage round to start, Gesamtmetall, which this year scrapped its wage deal in east Germany, yesterday took the unprecedented step of cancelling its agreement in the western half of the country.

Hans-Joachim Gottschol, Gesamtmetall president, said the move was a "cry for help" in the crisis in west Germany's engineering and metal industries. Industry officials said, however, that the employers were deliberately adopting an active stance over pay rather than the reactive position they have adopted in the past.

Gesamtmetall had urged the union to accept a wage freeze in nominal terms. Yesterday's surprise announcement implied, however, that it could step up its demands. The union has called for wage increases that match inflation, currently around 4 per cent, and take account of productivity increases. IG Metall rejected the employers' move to cancel pay deals and holiday contracts. Klaus Zwickel, acting IG Metall president, said his union was not "open to blackmail".

Opec talks slowed by Kuwait

BY GEORGE SIVELL

DEMANDS from Kuwait to be allowed by Opec to produce more oil are delaying efforts by other members to reach agreement on output quotas for the final quarter of the year that could help raise prices from three-year lows.

Kuwait wants to be allowed to produce the same amount of oil as the United Arab Emirates, pointing to the revenue it lost in the 1990-91 Iraq invasion. Opec ministers, meeting now for four days, said in Geneva they would need at least one more day to reach agreement. So far, they have settled only on a 24.5 million barrels a day production ceiling.

Saudi Arabia was said to be helping Jean Ping, Opec president, said after a meeting with Hisham Nazer, the Saudi Arabia oil minister. "Mr Hisham is doing his best to help us."



Nazer: helping Opec cause

Barclaycard savings cost 400 jobs

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYCARD is to cut 400 jobs, 8 per cent of its workforce, after a management cost-cutting review. It hopes the move, to reduce overheads, will produce annual savings of £15 million.

The jobs will go by the middle of next year, with 350 of them going from the group's main office, in Northampton, and the rest going from six regional centres: Manchester, Birmingham, two in Merseyside, Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

The move has been attacked by Bifu, the finance union, which claimed Barclaycard profits this year would be at a record £150 million, which is more than £30,000 per employee. Barclays, which does not split out Barclaycard profits, refused to comment on the claims. Richard Reay-Smith, chief executive of

Barclaycard, said: "We are a very profitable business and this is intended to keep us that way."

Rob MacGregor, of Bifu, said: "There can be no justification for these job losses whatsoever." He said 1,300 staff worked in the areas affected, supplying the rest of the division with support functions such as administration and personnel. Nationally, Barclaycard employs 4,800 staff.

The review began in April because the management of two businesses, Barclaycard's loan portfolio and its mortgage book, was transferred into other parts of the Barclays group. Barclays said the review came at a time of increased competition in the UK credit card market from both British and foreign businesses. Barclaycard is the credit card market leader with 8 million cards, and a 38 per cent share of turnover and 36 per cent of lending.

Mr Reay-Smith said the company was

forced to restructure rapidly after losses in 1989 and is attempting to think ahead this time rather than react to changes. The company is particularly concerned about the threat posed by MBNA, the US credit card operator that has just set up an operation in Chester with £7 million assistance from the government. But he said that while the cuts are intended to make Barclaycard more competitive and provide customers with better value products, they will not lead to cuts in charges or in interest rates.

Mr Reay-Smith said: "I recognise that a decision of this kind is difficult for everyone that is affected by it. However, we must reduce costs now if we are to secure the future of Barclaycard and preserve jobs in the long-term." He said he hoped to avoid compulsory redundancies but could not "rule them out completely". There will be a recruitment ban and some redeployment.

MINORCO

Preliminary announcement of results for the year to June 30, 1993

"Minorco's financial strength and product diversity have cushioned it against the harsher effects of prolonged global recession and allowed us to develop our businesses and progress our strategy for the long term benefit of our shareholders"

John Thompson
J. Ogilvie Thompson,
Chairman

● Earnings before extraordinary items increased to US\$211 million (1992: US\$206 million).

● Earnings after extraordinary items increased by 29% to US\$279 million (1992: US\$216 million).

● Dividend up 6% to 57 US cents per share, the eighth consecutive annual increase which over the period equates to an annual compound rate of growth of 13%.

● US\$242 million was invested in operating businesses and US\$387 million was spent on acquisitions and investments.

● Proposed merger transaction in terms of which Minorco will acquire significant mining and industrial interests principally in South America, Europe, South East Asia and Australia. Another major step in Minorco's evolution into a predominantly natural resource operating group.

	FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30	1993	1992
US\$ millions:			
Sales		1,726	1,667
Earnings before taxation		257	253
Earnings before extraordinary items		211	206
Earnings after extraordinary items		279	216
Net cash provided by operating activities		198	319
Capital expenditure		242	154
Acquisitions and investments		387	308
US\$ per share:			
Earnings before extraordinary items		1.25	1.22
Dividends declared*		0.57	0.54

*recommended by directors and subject to shareholders' approval.

FINAL DIVIDEND

The proposed final dividend for the year to June 30, 1993 of 57 US cents is payable on November 17, 1993 to shareholders of record on October 15, 1993.

The annual report will be made to shareholders on or about October 14, 1993. Copies may be obtained from the UK transfer agent Barclay Registrars, Bourne House, 44 Beckingham Road, Beckingham, Kent, BR3 3TU, England.

MINORCO

MINORCO LIMITED, LUXEMBOURG, SEPTEMBER 28, 1993

Minorco moves to become world player in mining

By COLIN CAMPBELL
MINING CORRESPONDENT

MINORCO, in a \$1.43 billion shares-for-mines deal predicted by *The Times* on Monday, is, in one leap, transformed into one of the largest operating mining groups in the world with a portfolio of net assets worth \$5.48 billion.

Minorco is acquiring various precious and base metal mines in Latin America and Australia in an international asset swap with Anglo American and De Beers Centenary, its parent companies. In exchange, Minorco will issue 55 million shares to Anglo/De Beers, and transfer ownership of all its African assets, notably copper interests in Zambia. The deal is on an asset-for-asset basis. No cash is involved, and Minorco will, therefore, still hold net cash balances of \$1.1 billion.

The group's cash remains earmarked for further acquisition. The group is currently considering industrial minerals deals in North America and, possibly, a merger of its gold mining interests there with other groups.

Anglo/De Beers assets passing to Minorco include mines and projects in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Venezuela now owned by Anglo American Corporation of South America; Eastern Investments, which has 19.9 per

A huge asset swap between Minorco and its parent shareholders will transform the world mining industry even though the buyer will not be dipping into its cash pile

cent of the Australian Normandy Poseidon group and interests in a number of South East Asian trading businesses; a 95 per cent stake in Mondi Europe, the paper/pulp group; and 100 per cent of the Cleveland potash mine in North Yorkshire.

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of Anglo American, De Beers and Minorco, said the transaction is being proposed "solely because it makes good business sense".

Anglo American will, in future, concentrate on Africa. Minorco will concentrate on non-diamond interests internationally. By product, Minorco will be 16 per cent gold, 11.9 per cent base metals, 13.7 per cent industrial minerals, 4.1 per cent paper/pulp and 2.4 per cent net cash. The balance is made up of the group's strategic interests that include 10 per cent of Johnson Matthey and 31 per cent of Engelhard, the North American platinum group.

Geographically, Minorco's assets will be spread over South America, 21 per cent, North America, 31 per cent, Europe, 21 per cent, and

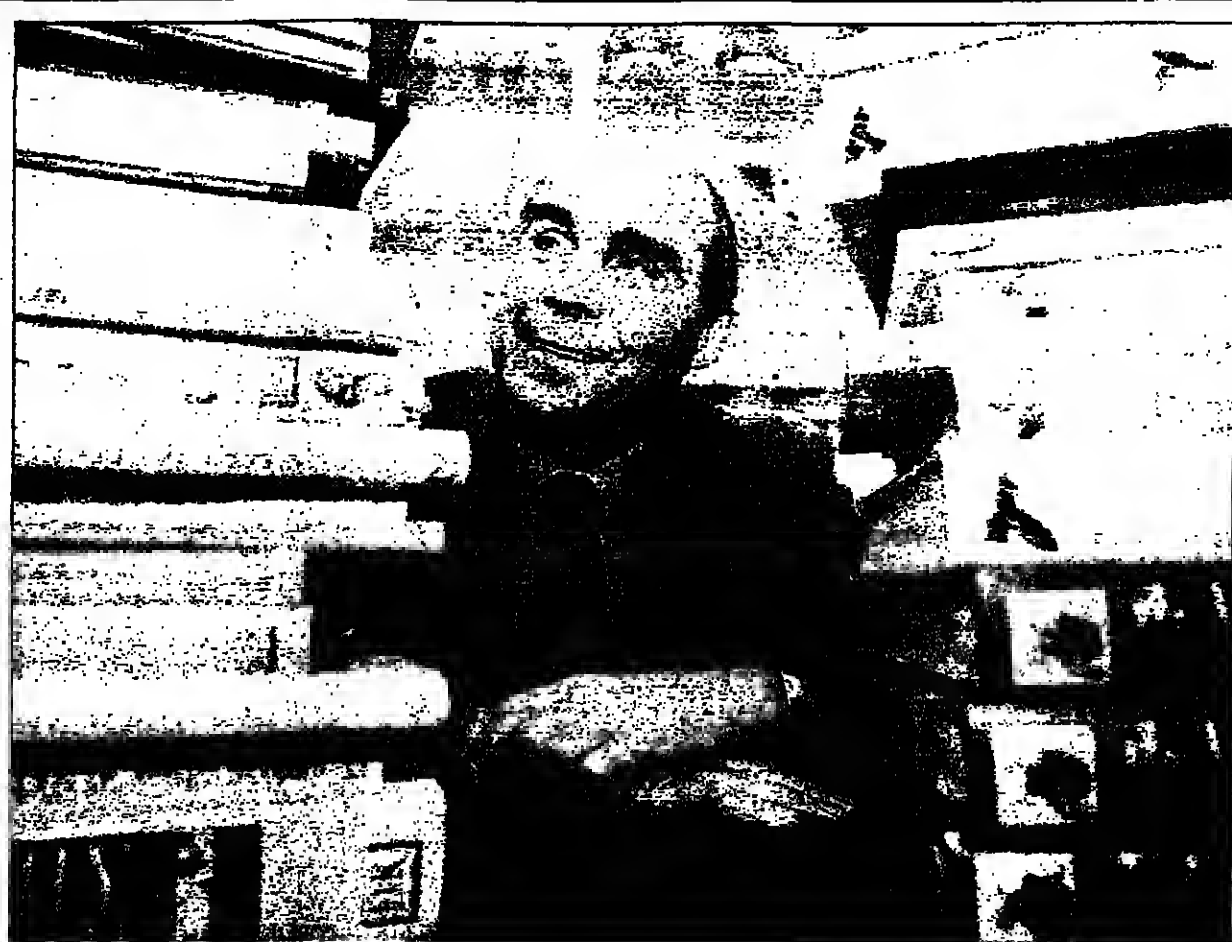
Australia/Far East, 5 per cent. South Africa's re-emergence after years of political isolation "led to a need to rationalise the way in which Anglo and Minorco approach new business round the world", Mr Ogilvie Thompson said. There could be opportunities in Zambia where Anglo will own 49.9 per cent of ZCL, he added.

Minorco's 95 per cent interest in Mondi Europe would give the group a fourth business division. Meanwhile, more focused operations should help narrow the gap between Minorco's share price and its net worth of \$2.41.

Anglo's stake in Minorco will increase from 39.3 per cent to 43.1 per cent and De Beers Centenary's stake from 21.1 per cent to 22.6 per cent. Three Minorco directors join Anglo's board, and three Anglo directors join Minorco's.

Minorco announced its eighth consecutive dividend rise to 57 cents (54 cents) after earnings before extraordinary items for the year to June 30 of \$211 million (\$206 million).

City Diary, page 29



Peter Kindersley plans to begin a new chapter of single titles for next year at Dorling, where profits are rising

Dorling to switch publishing emphasis

A SWITCH towards single titles, rather than whole series of books, is planned for next year by Dorling Kindersley, the publisher floated on the stock exchange last October. This will increase the average price of Dorling's books (Rodney Hobson writes).

Dorling, which made its name out of sets of children's encyclopaedias, reported pre-tax profits of £9.6 million, up from £7.5 million, in the year to June.

Earnings per share edged up from 9.4p to 9.9p. A 2.2p final makes 3.3p for the year. Peter Kindersley, chairman and chief executive, said adult publishing produced a 31 per cent increase in turnover to more than £50 million. It formed the major part of group turnover of £87 million, up from £70 million. Dorling will have 65 adult titles and 100 children's titles on its 1994 list. They include an American version of the

successful Royal Horticultural Society gardening encyclopaedia. For children there will be a science encyclopaedia, an eye witness atlas and a children's Bible. Guide books will be expanded from the current four titles. Mr Kindersley feels the possibility of VAT on books will not hurt Dorling. He said: "The UK is only a third of our business. We already deal in markets where there is some kind of sales tax."

Thorn hits back at US misconduct allegations

By JON ASHWORTH

THORN EMI has hit back at allegations of misconduct at its American Rent-A-Center operation — nearly a week after hard-hitting reports first surfaced in the US press.

In a statement yesterday, Thorn criticised a "seriously misleading" article in the *Wall Street Journal* that sent its shares into a tail-spin last week, but fell short of openly rebutting some of the paper's more serious accusations. The article alleged Rent-A-Center employees had linked up with Hell's Angels to repossess furniture and appliances, accepted sexual favours from customers, and had been unorthodox in its methods.

Thorn's shares had also been hit by reports of imminent regulatory action aimed at curbing the level of interest rates. They closed at 941p yesterday, 10p up on the day but well down on last Wednesday's 989p. Thorn said the article relied heavily on anecdotes from former employees, a number of whom were dismissed for serious breaches of company regulations.

Rent-A-Center is investigating the allegations. Thorn defended its relations with its customers, many of whom have been denied credit elsewhere. It welcomed the prospect of federal legislation in relation to rent-to-own transactions, while adding that the outcome of draft proposals remained uncertain.

Rent-A-Center is Thorn's single largest profits earner.

Fitter Sears back into the black at half-time

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE long haul back to recovery continued at Sears as the Selfridges-to-Freemans retail empire returned to the black after last year's heavy rationalisation charges at British Shoe Corporation.

A pre-tax loss of £97.1 million was transformed into a £38.9 million profit for the six months to July 31. Excluding restructuring costs and losses from discontinued businesses, underlying trading profits from the group's continuing operations rose by 26 per cent, from £29.8 million to £37.6 million, on sales up 6 per cent to £913.4 million (£862.9 million). Liam Strong, Sears's chief executive, said profitability had been enhanced by vigorous cost control, reduced discounting and productivity improvements.

The star performer was British Shoe, which turned a trading loss of £2.5 million into a £9.0 million profit, thanks to better sourcing, new product ranges and revitalised store formats. Shoe Express self-service stores, piloted earlier this year, are to be rolled out with more than 30 outlets by the end of the year. Mr Strong said sales had doubled in stores that had been converted to the Shoe Express format.

He also has plans to launch an out-of-town store which will bring all the Sears shoe fascias under one roof. Profits

from home shopping fell from £11.9 million to £9.4 million, hit by the £5.5 million cost of closing the Meulen Post, the Dutch mail order business. However, Freemans pushed profits up by 20 per cent, despite a fall in sales, vindicating the decision to sacrifice volume rather than margin.

Continuing losses at Richards, the women's clothing chain bought from Storehouse for £30 million last year, pushed profits down from £7.0 million to £4.8 million in the High Street Fashion division.

Mr Strong admitted that turning the chain round was proving "tougher going than we thought", though he blamed the poor performance on stock inherited at the time of the acquisition. New au-

turn ranges were selling well, though, he acknowledged it was still "early days". Adams, the children's wear chain, held steady despite aggressive competition from Mothercare. Losses were reduced at Olympus, though the sports market continues to suffer from heavy discounting. Profits were up by 9 per cent at Selfridges, the flagship department store, reflecting increased average transaction values.

Mr Strong said recovery on the high street continued to be "volatile". However, he added that there were signs that consumers were prepared to trade up, provided they believed they were getting good value.

The interim dividend is held at 1.0p per share. Sears's share price slipped by 3p, to 115p. Lord Wolfson of Maylebone, chairman of Great Universal Stores, confirmed the patchy and erratic nature of the recovery at the group's annual meeting. Although GUS's profits were up on last year, Lord Wolfson said consumer demand "remained cautious and selective", despite an improvement in June and July.

GUS shareholders voted in favour of the group's proposals to enfranchise its non-voting A ordinary shares.

Tempus, page 29



Strong: upturn "volatile"

Overseas boost for Watts

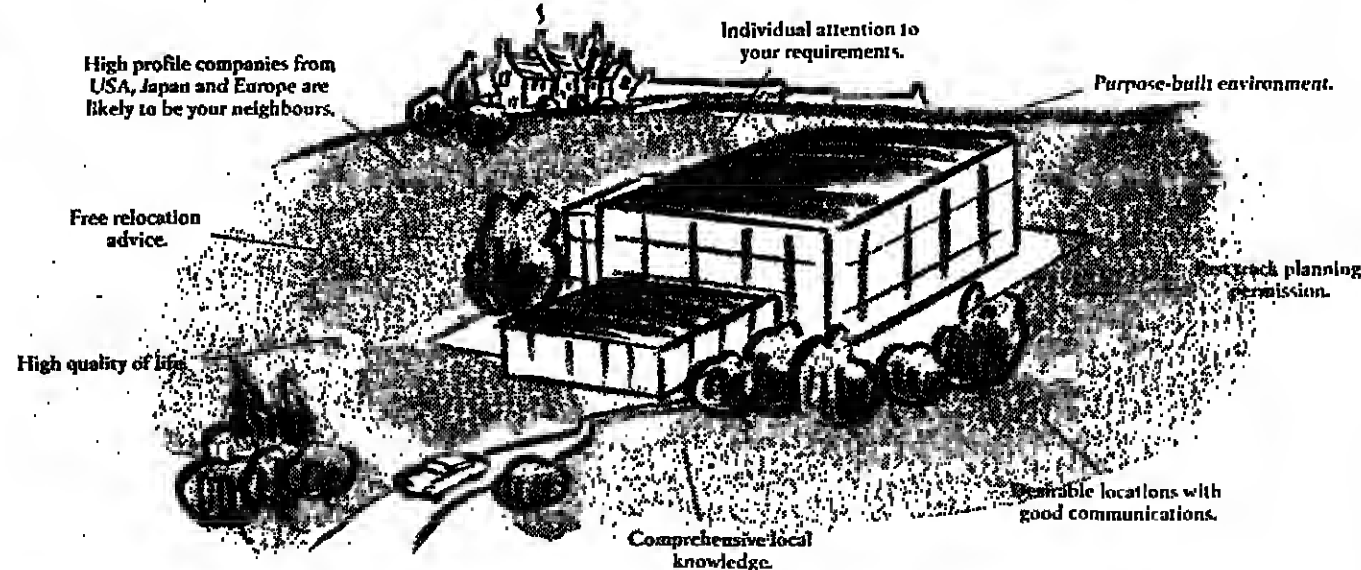
By PHILIP FANGALOS

INCREASED exports and a strong performance in America helped Watts Blake Bearne, the Devon clay extractor, to lift interim profits by 8 per cent, but the company spent about £950,000 defending itself against a takeover bid from Sibelo, of Belgium.

Watts made pre-tax profits of £4.26 million in the six months to June 30, against £3.74 million last time. Turnover, swelled by acquisition, advanced by 15 per cent, to £39.3 million. The biggest boost came from outside Europe, where the company enjoyed a 40 per cent advance: profits from American operations doubled.

Profits were depressed by an exceptional charge of £475,000, representing half the estimated professional fees and expenses incurred by the company in connection with the Sibelo bid. This was forced by City takeover rules but ended in failure this month, with the Belgian firm owning 46.8 per cent of Watts.

Watts's interim dividend is raised to 3.5p (2.7p), and a 12p payout is predicted for the year. Earnings edged to 12.6p (12p) a share. The shares were unchanged at 425p.



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Rescuing the corporate image after the Mirror cracked

Melvyn Marckus traces the fall and painful rise of Mirror Group Newspapers since the death of Robert Maxwell in November 1991

The £350 million-plus placing of close on 55 per cent of Mirror Group Newspapers' equity with a host of financial institutions — which was close to completion last night — effectively marks the end of a near two-year corporate nightmare known as "Mirroregate".

On December 5, 1991 — precisely a month after Robert Maxwell's death — John Talbot, of accountant Arthur Andersen, was appointed administrator of Maxwell's web of private companies. It had already become apparent that the principal asset of the companies, set against a Pyrenees of debt, was a controlling interest in MGN — the publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *People*, *Daily Record* and *Sunday Mail*.

In the winter of 1991, the unravelling of Mirroregate was already under way. Robert Maxwell's sons, Ian and Kevin, had resigned respectively from the boards of MGN and Maxwell Communication Corporation. MGN's share price had been suspended, for the second time, "pending clarification of the company's financial position". The initial suspension following Maxwell's disappearance, had seen the quote frozen at 77½p. The second halt to dealings came at 125p — the price at which Maxwell had sold 49 per cent of MGN shares the preceding May.

The "Max" factor — not entirely disconnected with the conclusion of DTI inspectors, in the wake of the Pergamon affair, that Maxwell was unfit to exercise proper stewardship of a public company — had proved a distinct deterrent in terms of the original take-up of MGN stock. A multitude of banks, led by the NatWest, had been attracted by Maxwell's charms (and interest rate *jolie de vivre*) but sophisticated City fund managers had proved somewhat more chary — despite the attempts by Smith New Court and Samuel Montagu, the joint advisers, to create a ring fence around MGN, separating the company from Maxwell's private interests.

Certain US institutions, intrigued by Maxwell's highly publicised "rescue" of the New York *Daily News*, subscribed for MGN stock, with a relatively small portion taken up by *Daily Mirror* readers. A matter of months later, the self-same readers were treated to a front page headline which read: "Millions missing from the Mirror".

Mr Talbot's appointment as administrator of Maxwell's private empire came hard on the heels of news that the Serious Fraud Office had launched an investigation into precisely how Maxwell had managed to strip an estimated £600 million from MGN and MMC. The DTI was examining MGN share transactions. Word was leaking out that approximately half of MGN's pension fund assets of £520 million had vanished, turning a £150 million surplus into a £110 million deficit.

NatWest, Barclays, Lloyds and the



David Montgomery, MGN chief executive, has picked up the pieces left behind by Robert Maxwell

Midland — each owed from £100 million to upwards of £200 million — were trying to absorb the fact that the borrowings of Maxwell's private empire amounted to some £900 million — excluding the £600-700 million owed to the public companies.

Pearson, publisher of the *Financial Times*, was the first to throw its hat in the MGN ring. Frank Barlow, Pearson's chief executive, let it be known that the company was looking seriously at the opportunity of purchasing MGN. Ernest Burrington, then chairman of MGN, opined that Pearson could "deliver the guarantees of non-interference in editorial which would enable MGN to continue in its present mould". No sooner had Barlow spoken than Richard Stott, then editor of the *Daily Mirror*, revealed his plans for a management buy-out of MGN — supported by Electra, the venture capital specialists.

Come the New Year of 1992 and Pearson, the most serious contender for MGN, publicly pulled out of the bidding. With some £400 million perceived as missing from MGN's pension fund — plus a further £100 million from the company — the "black hole" had taken its toll. Debt was estimated at £340 million. Tiny Rowland's Lorrho, which owned the Observer had also looked and walked away. Sir Peter Parker, former British

Rail chairman, emerged to head Mr Stott's buyout consortium.

In an attempt to cool speculation, Mr Talbot publicly declared that the 51 per cent block of MGN shares — effectively owned by the banks as collateral against loans to Maxwell's private empire — would not be sold in the short term. No sooner had he spoken than Tony O'Reilly, chairman Independent Newspapers, of Dublin, revealed that he was considering a bid for MGN.

It subsequently fell to Mr Talbot to tell an astonished audience that he actually controlled 54.8 per cent of MGN equity since Maxwell, who retained a 51 per cent stake when the company was floated, had secretly purchased a further 4 per cent — much along the lines of his clandestine support of MCC's share price.

Come the summer of 1992 and Sir Robert Clark, the fourth MGN chairman in eight months, faced the inevitable agrum showdown against the background of overall losses of close on £500 million as a by-product of the "fraud of the century". Shareholders alleged that "buckets of whitewash" had been poured over the role of MGN's directors.

Last year's agrum that proved the prelude to the relisting of MGN shares which, after a seven-month halt,

promptly crashed to 50p. Speculation persisted that a stake was being accumulated and, approximately a month later, Mr O'Reilly emerged as a 2 per cent shareholder.

Then came the great management reshuffle with David Montgomery, former editor of *Today*, appointed appointed chief executive, and David Banks replaced Mr Stott as editor of the *Daily Mirror*. MGN's revenues for 1992 heralded restructuring provisions of £116.5 million which saw 1991's pre-tax profit of £47.3 million replaced with a loss of £84 million. But, with operating profit up 16 per cent to £97.5 million, the share price continued to climb — to 115p.

Earlier this month MGN and Maxwell's private companies finally agreed "substantially" all mutual claims. A rise in 1993's mid-year pre-tax profits from £15.3 million to £69.9 million paved the way for a sale and, in the wake of last week's agrum Mr Talbot confirmed that N M Rothschild and Cazenove would spearhead the long awaited placing.

Last night, Rothschild closed its bookbuilding exercise — scheduled to last until Friday — after just two days. The hope is that the final striking price will be not far short of 170p — a far cry from this year's low of 88p. Mr Talbot bided his time. As for the predators, they never showed.

TEMPUS

Italian driving

THE interim loss and cash call from Fiat amount to nothing less than a red alert from one of Europe's largest motor groups. While the 966 billion lira (£404 million) loss is staggering enough, the 81 per cent rise in Fiat's net debt to £7,000 billion, almost £3 billion, is an even starker sign that the group is in deep trouble, particularly when there is little sign of an upturn in the European car market.

Since the group accounts for 27 per cent of the capitalisation of the Milan stock market, the implications for the whole Italian economy are unpleasant.

There is little wonder that Giovanni Agnelli has felt obliged to round up Fiat's best friends, including Generali, Deutsche Bank and Alcatel, and persuade them to inject fresh funding. Nor that he wants to stay in

command for another three years to sort the mess out himself. Fiat was heavily exposed to any downturn in the European motor industry. Market share has been slipping since the late eighties, recently falling to 12 per cent, four points behind Volkswagen. It was too diverse and vertically integrated to react swiftly to the sudden contraction in its main domestic market where sales have fallen 23 per cent this year.

The downturn has also hit Fiat while it has been suffering a hiatus between models. The aging Uno has been falling in popularity and Fiat is not due to launch its successor, the Punto, until the end of the year. The new model and the funds from the capital increase and disposals should help turn the business round, but it will be a far leaner motor group that emerges from the recession.

Sears

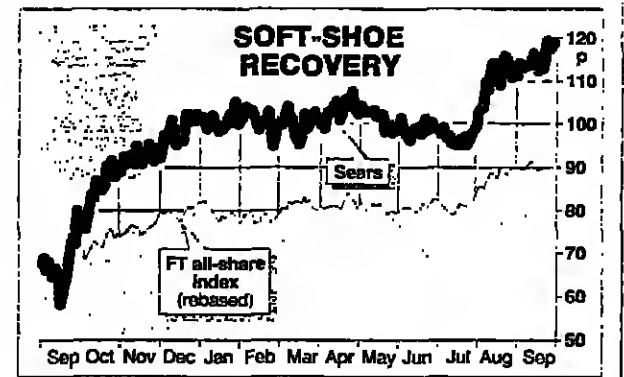
THE retail sector has become accustomed to vigorous recovery stories as the likes of Storehouse, Next and Burton bounce back unexpectedly from the brink. The market has come to expect a similarly miraculous transformation of Sears since Liam Strong joined as chief executive two years ago.

Mr Strong has done all the right things — developed better and cheaper sourcing, rationalised product ranges, closed under-performing stores and tested new and more up-to-date store formats. Yet investors have not seen the sharp recovery they may have hoped for. Unfortunately, turning Sears around is a bit like steering an oil tanker.

On a prospective p/e ratio of around 20, the shares are among the most expensive in

the sector, which looks unrealistic given the likely pace of recovery. That is not to say recovery will however elude the group. Good progress has been made at British Shoe over the past year, but the division still made only £9 million trading profit on sales of £253 million, so there is still some way to go. The other difficulty for the group

is, as soon as it starts to sort out one chain, problems crop up somewhere else. While British Shoe is recovering, profits in the high street fashion division have been depressed by losses at Richards. Shareholders must sometimes feel the group will never fire on all cylinders. It will have to start doing just that to justify its rating.



Takare

INVESTORS in Takare, the nursing home operator, are accustomed to the company's demands on their wallets. For every five shares they held in 1989, they have been asked to subscribe for 12 more in four open offers and rights issues at steadily increasing prices.

To its credit, the company has kept the promises it made at its last fund-raising two years ago. It is opening, on average, one 30-bed, £1 million nursing unit a week, but has maintained occupancy at 97 per cent.

Takare's formula of building standard nursing units and providing low-cost care suggest its earnings are more defensible than companies that run a variety of homes. The standardised service also provides the opportunity for savings and helps the central management take the strain of such rapid expansion.

The greatest risk for the highly rated nursing home companies is that some scandalous failure of care or financial mismanagement at one will drag down the share price of all the others. This

risk, though small, tends to outweigh the limited upside since the shares stand on a historic p/e ratio of more than 20. Longer-term, Takare shares will look more attractive if the latest rights issue means it now has a capital base large enough to allow it to exploit funding sources other than its shareholders.

Minoro

HAVING repeatedly tried and failed to acquire a worldwide resources group, Minoro has finally traded with the one source that would not refuse — its majority shareholders. The \$1.4 billion asset swap with Anglo-American increases its net assets to \$5.5 billion, with no more than a third in any one continent and none in Africa. The drawback is that Minoro has failed to spend its \$1.1 billion in cash. With world interest rates so low, cash is not the most desirable commodity. Minoro might be wise to hold its funds back for a while longer. Base metal prices are still depressed and mining assets face further deflation. Why should Minoro spend today when it can pay less next year?

Great Portland PROPERTY groups by their nature are one-man bands. Shareholders are investing in the talents of a canny buyer and seller of assets as much as they are acquiring a stake in the assets themselves. That is no reason, however, for the leader to regard the company as his private orchestra, no matter how long or well he has served the shareholders.

Great Portland Estates has removed the most glaring breach of corporate governance by the buy-in of Basil & Howard Samuel, its managing agents, although the company has seen fit to commemorate the event with a handsome one-off payment to the chairman of £375,000.

The company is better for putting its directors' pay on a

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

About my freehold...

WHETHER the fate of Centre Point? Home to the Confederation of British Industry and one of London's most controversial landmarks, the 35-storey tower block, designed by Richard Seifert, has never quite been able to shake off the white elephant image won after standing vacant for the best part of 11 years once construction ended in 1968. Now, it has emerged that the building was built on the freehold site of Gadeselli & Sons, an Italian restaurant that was sequestered by the government when war broke out in 1939, and for which, it seems, no recompense was made. The owner, Vincenzo Gadeselli, was killed when the ship taking him to Canada was torpedoed, and his son, Guido, spent six years as a prisoner on the Isle of Man along with the Fortes. Vincenzo's grandson, Richard, meanwhile, happens to be head of corporate communications for the United Kingdom arm of the mighty Fiat group — one that may not say no to a few floors in central London if the opportunity were to arise...

Innocents abroad

WITH Matthew Smallwood and Kathryn Bell of College Hill Associates sunning themselves in the Seychelles, further gory details from their weekend nuptials are creeping out. Eager to make the right impression, their colleagues, Richard Pearson and Patrick Treasure, commandeered a friend's dark-blue Rolls-Royce

for the trip from London to Oxford. Arriving in the town after a jaunty run up the M40, and a little disoriented, they pulled up to ask for directions to St Aloysius Church. "No problem," said a local, who promptly hopped in the front seat and began to guide the grateful pair through the streets. After some minutes and several miles, he told them to stop, thanked them for the lift, and strolled off — leaving Pearson and Treasure stranded in Woodstock, many miles from their destination.

Costco confusion

COSTCO, the American warehouse-club operator which is currently embroiled in the courts with Sainsbury, Tesco and Argill, is moving offices. This is unlikely to lessen the problems for Barry Dudgeon and Ashwin Shah, partners of the unrelated Costco Discount Supermarket, and Off-licence of Milton Keynes, who have been getting many of the calls and letters from lawyers, architects,

planning consultants and would-be suppliers intended for Paul Moulton, managing director of Costco (Europe). Nor does it bode well for the indignant United Kingdom supermarket chains. Moulton, whose job is to proliferate Costco warehouses around the country in the quickest way possible, will now be operating from a new base in Watford... the appropriately named Clone House.

Bottom line

IN A graphic display that demonstrates that even the flesh market is not recession-proof, Playboy Enterprises is cutting 10 per cent of its workforce and will sink more heavily into the red in the wake of the largest loss since Christie Heffner took over from her father, Hugh, five years ago. Soft sales of the magazine, which once draped Heffner's wife across the centrefold — Mrs Heffner was 1989 Playmate of the year — are pulling the organisation down. Video sales have been weak and the late-night pay-per-view adult-rated television channel has failed to attract insomniac thrill-seekers in large enough numbers. Ms Heffner is now looking beyond the borders of the United States for a recovery in the company's fortunes. Until then, the apparent fading American libido will cost 60 people their jobs and may further dent Playboy's unexciting share price. Job cuts will cost \$2.3 million and push the group \$4.5 million into the red, although some subtle massaging should help the ailing group.



Trading places

ANOTHER day of moves in the fast-paced world of the City. UBS, rocked by senior departures recently, has snatched a pair from Nomura — Chris Aldous, 33, who starts on general European sales in November, and Carlos Cerezo, 29, who joins next month as Spanish analyst. Ian Rolfe has quit Bear Stearns' sizable Latin American team to sign up with JP Morgan, and over at Morgan Stanley, Tony Norman has left the derivatives desk to work for Bankers Trust. Phew!

Bad timing

MINORCO has completed its grand London office move from Hammer Smith to 40 Holborn Viaduct, has announced its mega shares-for-minors deal, but has yet to exercise all the ghosts from the past. Previous tenants of its new offices were Anglo American and Charter Consolidated, and even in their day in the 1980s the clock above the front entrance was always slow. Yesterday, the clock was still either 8½ hours fast, or 3½ hours slow. Will somebody please climb up a ladder?

Electric don

EASTERN Electricity, the largest of the regional electricity companies, is to provide up to £200,000 for a Tutorial Fellowship in Engineering at Balliol College, Oxford. James Smith, Eastern's chairman, says he hopes it will fill a gap for qualified engineers.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Doubts over cost of Lloyd's plan

From R.H.B. Malim

Sir, I am a member of a group of Lloyd's names who are at present relatively unscathed by the difficulties of the society, but, in common with all names, we face the decision on whether to support the introduction of corporate capital at the EGM on October 20.

So far, we have been firmly in favour of the business plan, which appeared to offer an acceptable and well thought out solution to an appalling situation. Although no attempt was made in "The Plan" to put a cost on "ring fencing" the 1985 and prior years, the inference was clear that, if the considerable reserves were coordinated and properly invested, names would find this an acceptable measure, which would then allow the introduction of corporate capital and the continuation of Lloyd's.

We have now received

Chaset's forecast of the cost of this operation to existing names, which indicates an average figure of over £250,000 per name. In recent years, Chaset has been more accurate in forecasting loss and cost than Lloyd's and we are bound to take notice of its warning as we tussle with the question of support for corporate capital on October 20.

In the light of Chaset's assertion and in view of the fact that the cost of default by those who have been so badly hurt that they cannot pay will probably fall on those who can, Lloyd's must clarify this issue before we can be expected to vote in favour of this important change.

Yours faithfully,

R.H.B. MALIM

Croose Farm,

Woolhope,

Near Hereford.

Full employment is possible without inflation

From Mr Thomas B Haran

Sir, Perhaps, in response to Professor David Bell's letter (September 22), you will allow me to explain why full employment is always within reach and need not result in inflation.

The production and supply of goods and services are financed in advance by bank borrowing, which can be expressed in a formula. Thus, x minus 8 per cent equals y , where x is total deposits and y is the amount available for borrowing.

If pay (say, mostly at the top) and prices were reduced, less borrowing would be required to finance the current levels of production and supply. Such action would, therefore, leave a surplus available to finance growth and additional em-

ployment, and would cause a matching increase in the purchasing power of the outstanding money supply.

Whether we like it or not, pay and price levels are the keys to the economy, while policies based on monetary theory are ineffective. Sorry, I am not a fanatic, a psychologist or a Norwegian diplomat. Yours faithfully,

THOMAS B HARAN

(Author of *The Monetary Analysis*),

23 Orchard Road,

Bromley, Kent.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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OMF

Pulse. The financial pager that lets you escape for lunch.
(FOR LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST)

93	Lincoln	140	...	...	3.8	18.4	215	162	JR Group	169	1
97	Lincoln	193	...	...	3.3	16.7	513	409	Legal & Gen	489	7
4	Lincoln Hosa	226	...	...	...	18.5	1042	70	Liberty Life	963	
76	Linnard	112	-1	3.7	4.3	17.1	465	403	Day's Abbey	438	
30	Lincoln Park	250	...	...	7.0	6.0	338	253	Lloyd Thomp	283	
93	Linnear	12	7	...	0.2	2.1	368	274	Louisa & Men	265	

Madison	3	...	...	16.4	533	299	Truesdand	338	
Magnolia	108	...	0.1	0.1	16.1	773	499	and Friendly	638 ?
Mini Bronze	101	...	1.0	1.2	...	262	171	Wills Corroon	234
Marling	221	...	...	3.6	...	21	131	Winslow	20
Mayborn	191	...	...	3.3	14.5				
Mayflower	30	...	...	2.7	40.1				
Medora	1107	...	...	2.5	9.0				
Megala	107	...	...	4.5	15.0				

No. 6 Group	78	...	...	4.3	12.2	191	130	Cost. Asset	164	+
NuStar	103	...	...	...	...	195	143	Derry Inc	131	+
Offshore Elec. Mar.	71	...	...	0.1	0.2	230	195	-60 Cap	260	+
OMI Inc.	30	...	...	6.1	...	80	62	Drayton Blue	20	+
PCW	152	+	...	6.9	15.0	30	20	-60 Eng East	51	+
Power Systems	...	+	...	...	...	133	94	-60 Eng East	121	+
Prentiss	99	...	...	1.2	12.1	100	90	-60 Eng East	121	+
Proto-Me	130	+	...	6.0	1.7	665	576	Domestic Inc	650	+
Pittman	145	+	...	3.4	...	100	92	-60 Eng East	121	+

Record	71	...	3.0	6.4	34.4	212	147	-60	Entp	315	...
Race	5	...	...	...	...	354	213	-60	F Rast	192	...
Religion	237	...	4.9	2.6	28.6	326	246	-60	Floing	323	...
Service	251	...	4.5	3.9	33.4	118	93	-60	Hi Inc	100	...
Sex	30	...	...	1.2	...	260	120	-60	Japan	229	...
Teuties	151a	-2	21.2	1.7	25.4	399	250	-60	Merc	279	...
Thomson	35	...	1.7	4.0	...	392	212	-60	Ones	283	...
Atlantic Group	156	...	5.7	4.2	...	528	318	-60	Porting & Co	349	...

1	Seal	427	1	39	147	124	English	139
2	Scott	17	1	1	1	1	English	139
3	Scott Heritable	178	1	2.6	65	147	M5 US Smith	93
4	Seaton	1078	1	2.6	64	239	Klausmutter Chrt	201
5	Seaton	72	1	5.0	10	239	176 -40 Oryd	229
6	Seaton's Saw	40	1	5.0	10	130	500 -40 Smil	127
7	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
8	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
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17	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
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25	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
26	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
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29	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
30	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
31	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
32	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
33	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
34	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
35	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
36	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
37	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
38	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
39	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
40	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
41	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
42	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
43	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
44	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
45	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24	19.3	130	500 -40 Smil	127
46	Seaton's Saw	117	1	24				

Years)	1997	1998	1999	2000-12	2001	2002
-	11.20	6.63	86%	Treas 5% 2000-12	85%	9%
-	0.80	6.76	109%	Treas 5% 2012-13	104%	9%
-	9.43	0.82	108%	Treas 8% 2013	107%	9%
-	0.84	0.83	149%	Exch 12% 2013-17	146%	9%
-			117%	Treas 9% 2017	116%	9%

UNDATED

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43%	11	Chufz 25	28	-1	663
1312%	7825	De Beers	1237	-25	...	19 16.9	258
145	37	Delek	106	+7	...	1.8 12.2	20
96	7	Deutsche	467	+7	...	...	132
913	388	Deutsche	724	-2	...	4.1 14.1	153
129	127	Durbin	2	...	...	...	682
201	47	E. Rand Gold	111	-9	...	10.3 3.2	111
220	54	E. Rand Prop	268	-2	...	...	...
606	17	Fluorocarb.	387	+0	...	...	...

	746	607	RIZ	701	-1	...	38	194	19
	6574	425	Rand Mines	3564	+	...	110	27	
	671	150	Randfontein	506	+2	...	5.8	...	253
...	5.5	19.7							82
...	5.3	283							35
...	2.7	18.8							196
17.3	49	15.0							126
6.7	3.8	...							64
14.5	46	26.5							56

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT						
258	230	Abbey Power	239	* 3	...	...
135	95	Acflaw Stream	136	...	3.8	29 12.5
152	80	Applegard	130	7	...	5.2
238	200	Biclerdy Mir	320	...	3.4	16.3
167	123	Buc	197	...	4.6	29.1
604	160	Bc-Anticrump	430	7	...	7.0

24	16	012	258	228	Pat O'Leary	258	4	1	25	120	53	1
01	118	91	376	235	Paul Mazur	279	559	...	...	...	206	1
			312	213	George Mtr	300	50	1	18	...	42	2
34	131	80	75	18	Gowings	...	...	20	43	...	82	6
12	18	...	247	20	Hembs	293	...	3.0	1.6	...	34	1
08	06	...	982	630	Honda Minor	91	29	...	0.6	...	133	8
05	00	...	20	15	Jacks (Pm)	26	...	...	...	...	223	19
04	09	20	108	66	Jessup	...	...	4.5	5.7	...	25	1
			172	07	Pompey	109	4	25	23.4	...	...	...

NEWS, PUBLISHERS									
193	103	Adams	191	...	5.0	3.3	78.6		
250	315	Black (ABC)	323	...	13.5	4.7	14.8		
608	250	Northern Co	343	...	7.5	3.5	11.8		

5.1	4.6	20.0	580	240	Independent	263			13	19.6	51.3	330
3.0	3.4	25.9	590	35	Johnstone Press	579	-1	6.2	14	26.9	82	4
1.0	1.0	19.1	118	243	Metal Bulletin	118		6.0	31	22.5	271	147
2.3	1.8	6.1	186	58	Mirror GP	177	-3				34	26
2.4	2.4	20.0	404	297	News Curr	460	+3		6.2		96	41
13.5	1.5	13.0	274	199	News Last	268	-1		0.6	16.5	299	126
			346	304	Pearson	544	+3		2.8	29.6	295	181
	3.1	37.3	675	510	Postscript Second	618			19	17.0	291	181

OILS, GAS		
37	17 Arab Energy	31 1/2
65	37 Arab Inds.	41 1/2
71	41 Arab Oil & Gas	41 1/2
83	25 Aramco Pet	66
16	9 Borealis	11 1/2
18	10 Borealis	11 1/2
20	10 Borealis	11 1/2
22	10 Borealis	11 1/2
24	10 Borealis	11 1/2
26	10 Borealis	11 1/2
28	10 Borealis	11 1/2
30	10 Borealis	11 1/2
32	10 Borealis	11 1/2
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44	10 Borealis	11 1/2
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52	10 Borealis	11 1/2
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56	10 Borealis	11 1/2
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62	10 Borealis	11 1/2
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66	10 Borealis	11 1/2
68	10 Borealis	11 1/2
70	10 Borealis	11 1/2
72	10 Borealis	11 1/2
74	10 Borealis	11 1/2
76	10 Borealis	11 1/2
78	10 Borealis	11 1/2
80	10 Borealis	11 1/2
82	10 Borealis	11 1/2
84	10 Borealis	11 1/2
86	10 Borealis	11 1/2
88	10 Borealis	11 1/2
90	10 Borealis	11 1/2
92	10 Borealis	11 1/2
94	10 Borealis	11 1/2
96	10 Borealis	11 1/2
98	10 Borealis	11 1/2
100	10 Borealis	11 1/2

2.29	318	345	18, Feldman Inc	234	-	4	33	8.5
3.00	319	10,	4, Parnace	4,				
3.00		67	45 Good Per	64		14	20	11.7
3.00	320	48	10 On Western Inc	43	-			
3.00	322	175	106, Handy O & C	167	-	1	04	15.2
3.00	324	46	19, Keli Energy	41				
3.00	325	125	129 LARNO	123	-		29	20.0
3.00	328	303	63 Co Inter	30	-	94	161	

Figure 1

do. 'A'	349	= 4	10.0	3.8	25.0
Medical Bar	247	...	...	2.4	8.9
Horningsway	30	...	...	...	...
Hoering Baker	50	...	3.7	...	144
Jenny's	138	...	...	...	...
Land Soc	677	= 7	22.8	4.2	20.4
Low Merch Soc	98	= 1	4.0	5.1	15.2
Low & Metch	24	...	...	...	...

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2
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Automotive	15
Headline	192	1	1.8 41.1
Lumber	325	1	...	130	4.9 6.2
Plastics	55	...	+ 1	2.5	...
Strong & Fisher	30	1.0	4.8 7.2
Style	164	...	...	...	2.0 20.4
UK Sales	66	...	+ 1	...	9.6 2.1

Caprice	355	...	1508	2.3	14.9
Dawson	31	...	...	...	...
Drummond	42	+ 2	...	5.7	14.8
Faust	82	...	...	7.5	12.7
Power Unit	-30	...	...	...	...
Gedell	124	...	...	4.5	4.5
Hickling Power	220	...	...	3.3	17.1
Jerome (S)	87	+ 1	...	...	...

West Trust	39.1	...	2.5	5.0	...
Yorkshire	120	...	...	2.6	11.6

TOBACCO					
BAT	494	612	...	4.7	14.8

Exported On	529	...	...	...
Fiber Content	40	...	1.0	1.0 20.5
Unit Size	207	...	4.5	30.6
Yarns (lb)	32	...	0.5	30 ...
Len 075sec Pns	91	...	...	5.5 16.7
Manchester 5th	2237	...	4.5	0.2 10.8
Mersey Dock	395	...	9.0	20 25.3
Wall Brown	245	...	...	34 17.6

WATER				
Longman Water	534	-4	...	49 10.8

at suspension; 7 Ex dividend; 2 Ex
rights issue; 4 Ex all; 8 Ex capital
in figures or record available; ... No

7-15-68

1.0	1.0	45	UP-200 Energy	41	...	15.2	USMC #1 Prior to suspension: 1.0; 2.0; 3.0; 4.0; 5.0; 6.0; 7.0; 8.0; 9.0; 10.0; 11.0; 12.0; 13.0; 14.0; 15.0; 16.0; 17.0; 18.0; 19.0; 20.0; 21.0; 22.0; 23.0; 24.0; 25.0; 26.0; 27.0; 28.0; 29.0; 30.0; 31.0; 32.0; 33.0; 34.0; 35.0; 36.0; 37.0; 38.0; 39.0; 40.0; 41.0; 42.0; 43.0; 44.0; 45.0; 46.0; 47.0; 48.0; 49.0; 50.0; 51.0; 52.0; 53.0; 54.0; 55.0; 56.0; 57.0; 58.0; 59.0; 60.0; 61.0; 62.0; 63.0; 64.0; 65.0; 66.0; 67.0; 68.0; 69.0; 70.0; 71.0; 72.0; 73.0; 74.0; 75.0; 76.0; 77.0; 78.0; 79.0; 80.0; 81.0; 82.0; 83.0; 84.0; 85.0; 86.0; 87.0; 88.0; 89.0; 90.0; 91.0; 92.0; 93.0; 94.0; 95.0; 96.0; 97.0; 98.0; 99.0; 100.0
1.0	1.0	45	UP-200 Energy	41	...	15.2	USMC #1 Prior to suspension: 1.0; 2.0; 3.0; 4.0; 5.0; 6.0; 7.0; 8.0; 9.0; 10.0; 11.0; 12.0; 13.0; 14.0; 15.0; 16.0; 17.0; 18.0; 19.0; 20.0; 21.0; 22.0; 23.0; 24.0; 25.0; 26.0; 27.0; 28.0; 29.0; 30.0; 31.0; 32.0; 33.0; 34.0; 35.0; 36.0; 37.0; 38.0; 39.0; 40.0; 41.0; 42.0; 43.0; 44.0; 45.0; 46.0; 47.0; 48.0; 49.0; 50.0; 51.0; 52.0; 53.0; 54.0; 55.0; 56.0; 57.0; 58.0; 59.0; 60.0; 61.0; 62.0; 63.0; 64.0; 65.0; 66.0; 67.0; 68.0; 69.0; 70.0; 71.0; 72.0; 73.0; 74.0; 75.0; 76.0; 77.0; 78.0; 79.0; 80.0; 81.0; 82.0; 83.0; 84.0; 85.0; 86.0; 87.0; 88.0; 89.0; 90.0; 91.0; 92.0; 93.0; 94.0; 95.0; 96.0; 97.0; 98.0; 99.0; 100.0
1.0	1.0	45	UP-200 Energy	41	...	15.2	USMC #1 Prior to suspension: 1.0; 2.0; 3.0; 4.0; 5.0; 6.0; 7.0; 8.0; 9.0; 10.0; 11.0; 12.0; 13.0; 14.0; 15.0; 16.0; 17.0; 18.0; 19.0; 20.0; 21.0; 22.0; 23.0; 24.0; 25.0; 26.0; 27.0; 28.0; 29.0; 30.0; 31.0; 32.0; 33.0; 34.0; 35.0; 36.0; 37.0; 38.0; 39.0; 40.0; 41.0; 42.0; 43.0; 44.0; 45.0; 46.0; 47.0; 48.0; 49.0; 50.0; 51.0; 52.0; 53.0; 54.0; 55.0; 56.0; 57.0; 58.0; 59.0; 60.0; 61.0; 62.0; 63.0; 64.0; 65.0; 66.0; 67.0; 68.0; 69.0; 70.0; 71.0; 72.0; 73.0; 74.0; 75.0; 76.0; 77.0; 78.0; 79.0; 80.0; 81.0; 82.0; 83.0; 84.0; 85.0; 86.0; 87.0; 88.0; 89.0; 90.0; 91.0; 92.0; 93.0; 94.0; 95.0; 96.0; 97.0; 98.0; 99.0; 100.0

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Trucks turn the corner

Sales are picking up at last after hitting a rough patch. Tanya Cordrey reports on the new mood of optimism

Truck sales are often seen as a barometer of the nation's economic health. At the height of the 1980s boom, sales of commercial vehicles soared. And just before the economic decline gripped Britain, sales of goods vehicles began a dramatic slump — the biggest since the second world war.

Sales dropped by more than 50 per cent from a high of 69,234 registrations in mid-1989 to the end of 1991. But the good news is that the figures are now back on the way up, particularly in the heavier vehicle sectors.

Statistics from the Society of Motor Manufacturers show that in August, sales of trucks over 3.5 tonnes jumped by just under 20 per cent to 4,910 compared with 4,097 in the same period last year. The figures have climbed slowly every month — apart from a slight blip in March — for 15 consecutive months.

But problems remain for light commercial vehicles. Sales of vans continue below last year's severely depressed levels, although the decline now seems to be slowing. Overall, 31,085 commercial vehicles were sold during August, a fall of just under 2 per cent. Total sales for the first eight months of 1993 at 135,340 registrations are running at 4.76 per cent below the same period last year.

Throughout the troughs and peaks, the number of vehicle manufacturers has steadily been declining. In 1960, there were 59 European truck manufacturers; today there are just 11 in the EC, with a handful of light commercial vehicle manufacturers.

Many predict the number of truck makers will continue to drop until there are only a few big players left. Certainly, over the past year the truck building industry has experienced several major upheavals.

The most recent shake-up occurred just weeks ago when Volvo and Renault combined forces to create one of the biggest automotive groups in Europe. Both are major players: Volvo is one of the leading suppliers of heavy trucks in the UK and Renault has a



Leyland Daf is still on the road after the company crashed, but the number of makers is steadily declining

presence in both the light commercial and heavy truck sectors.

Truck manufacturing grabbed the nation's attention earlier this year with the crash of Leyland Daf, one of the industry's leading manufacturers.

The receiver Arthur Andersen was called in after Daf, the Dutch parent, was forced to seek protection from creditors when banks refused to unfreeze credit lines without an agreement on short-term funding.

Management buyouts at both the van operation and the Leyland assembly plant have kept the vehicles and the brand name in the market, along with Daf, which now controls UK sales and marketing.

The crash has affected Leyland Daf's market share. Just before Leyland went under, the manufacturer was winning a tight battle with rival Iveco Ford for the pole position in truck sales.

The company is confident of claiming back lost market share. David Gill, the managing director of Leyland Daf Trucks, says it is only a matter of time before the firm's share recovers from its present 18 per cent to the 23 per cent gained in 1992.

The turbulent climate has seen other dramatic changes. In 1992, Renault closed its Dunstable assembly plant, halted production of the aging Dodge 50 Series and axed 280 jobs. Six months

earlier, administrative receivers were appointed at the former Bedford truck business AWD. And at the start of the year, MAN's UK truck importing business changed hands after MAN Nutzfahrzeuge AG of Germany purchased Swindon-based MAN Truck & Bus.

After such a period of tremendous

'We are still cultivating a delicate flower'

change, the market seems to be finding its feet. Many believe sales will continue their climb. The industry has recently had a stream of new vehicle launches, which manufacturers insist represent confidence in the UK market.

Like many others, Mr Gill is optimistic about the future of the British truck industry. He expects 9 per cent growth in the market by the end of this year compared with 1992, taking the market to about 34,000 registrations over 3.5 tonnes. Prospects for 1994 are even brighter, with 37,500 to 42,000 registrations, he predicts.

Mr Gill's sentiments are echoed by most leading truck manufacturers. Almost all believe the need to replace aging truck fleets will be an unstoppable force behind rising sales.

"Our prediction for the market in 1994 is that it will grow approximately 16 per cent to 39,000 units," says Alan B. Fox, the chief executive officer of Iveco Ford Truck.

Despite such upbeat comments, all truck manufacturers are aware that the current surge in truck sales is fragile and could easily be halted. Uncertainty over the impact of the impending end of 40 per cent capital allowances is one worry.

The November Budget is another. Changes to duty on diesel fuel or increases in vehicle excise duty, running at a maximum rate of £5,000 per vehicle for some truck categories, could thwart companies' investment plans. What they want is economic action which will allow the road transport industry to continue its slow but steady growth.

David Thomas, director of commercial vehicles for Mercedes-Benz (UK), says: "What the industry does not need is a surge forward that will bring the inevitable trough behind it. Neither does it need any action in the next budget that will suppress demand. We are still cultivating a delicate flower."

Making it pay off in the long haul

Choosing the right truck finance scheme is critical

Funding to acquire commercial vehicles has become almost as important a component of operators' competitive advantage as the quality of the service they offer. Skilled financial management can be both a real benefit to companies' cash flows and an attraction to investors and backers.

Traditionally, the haulage sector has gone for outright purchase of trucks and performed all the maintenance in its own workshops once warranty periods have expired. However, more hauliers are now choosing an all-embracing contract hire package, where an independent contract hire company supplies vehicles, maintenance, emergency replacements and servicing for an all-in fee.

Truck acquisition through contract hire schemes is estimated to account for 17.5 per cent of UK registrations of new trucks of more than 3.5 tonnes. And while the market for vans is still in decline, the truck market, where sales on finance were up by 13.6 per cent in the first eight months of this year, compared with 1992, is rapidly recovering. Ryder, for instance, is spending £30 million over the next 12 months to buy 1,000 new trucks for its rental, contract hire and distribution fleets.

However, there have been rumblings of complaint from contract hire independents that some truck manufacturers are competing with them by having their own contract hire arms. The manufacturers say that the array of products means very few providers can cater for all types of demand. Many packages allow for the most expensive UK maintenance labour rates, for instance, but an operator confining vehicles to certain regions could bargain on the basis of lower labour rates.

Contract hire takes vehicles off the company balance sheet, means predictable

fee. For tax and accounting purposes, the operator is the owner from the start. Despite a 20 per cent deposit, the cost of buying is spread out by using this scheme. The truck is shown as an asset on the balance sheet but the operator can claim depreciation allowances and the interest element can be offset against taxable profit. Operating leases are effectively long-term, fixed price, rental deals where the operator is responsible for maintenance. The finance company owns the vehicle and charges rentals based on how much it thinks the vehicle will be worth at the end of the contract.

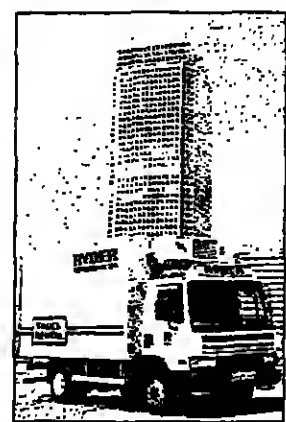
It can claim capital allowances, so the rentals are relatively low. And the operator can charge rentals as an expense on the profit and loss account though the vehicle will not appear on the balance sheet.

Another popular acquisition method is the finance lease. This is a long-term hire agreement where the finance company allows the operator to use the truck for an agreed hire period. The operator still takes most of the risks of ownership. The hire period, called the primary period, is agreed beforehand and during it the finance firm receives rentals to cover the cost of the vehicle plus interest.

Then the operator can lease the vehicle for a secondary period for a nominal rental or can sell it on behalf of the finance company, which refunds most of the net sales proceeds.

The finance lease means the vehicle has to appear as an asset on the operator's balance sheet, but the rentals are allowable as a business expense against tax. The operator takes all the risk on a truck's residual value at the end of the deal.

JOHN TOWERS



Ryder trucks: investment

tional formula has been to

charge them 50 per cent of

outstanding rentals, rental of

the vehicle being one of the

components of the contract

price and allowable against

tax. But the industry is

looking at ways to introduce

a regime with fewer pen-

alties, partly because cus-

tomers have been reluctant

to commit themselves to long-

term contract hires.

There are, though, many

other ways by which opera-

tors can acquire their trucks.

The purchase plan means an

operator hires a truck for an

agreed period and takes

ownership of the vehicle on

completion of the period by

paying a usually nominal

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Dark clouds for light van makers

Sales of small vans in August were almost 7 per cent down on the same month last year, Adam Hill reports

The most recent figures for registrations of light commercial vehicles showed a drop in August this year. According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, nearly 102,000 vans up to 3.5 tonnes were sold in the year to August in Britain, more than a third of which were imported.

While registrations of all commercial vehicles may have been down only slightly, and with heavier units showing encouraging signs, it is difficult to be confident about light van sales.

Although the downturn in van sales is largely across the board, the microvan sector has been particularly hard hit. In the 1980s it was regarded as a boom area: however, its share has halved in the past two years.

Diminutive, with a one litre or so engine, narrow body and tight turning circle, microvans were popular among small businesses in urban locations. As the recession bit, demand duly dropped.

This year Vauxhall Motors, which has traditionally taken about three-quarters of the market, ceased production of its Rascal range. Although Daihatsu's Hijet, built in Italy, continues to sell, it is difficult to avoid the feeling that the previous high volumes will never return.

The future development of car-derived vehicles has, to some extent, compensated. High-cube vans, at about 1.5 tonnes and in the £6,000 to £7,000 price range, and so called because of their high cubic capacity, are popular with what is left of the micro's old market. Not unlike cars to drive, their high-sided space is attractive, perhaps making the difference between one trip or two for some people. The performance of a larger engine on longer journeys also extends their appeal.

For all this, light van sales in

August were almost 7 per cent down on the same month last year (8,900 as opposed to 9,500), although this represented an improvement when set against the first eight months of the year as a whole. The degree of manufacturer and consumer confidence is hard to ascertain, but Vauxhall's new high-cube Combo, which replaces the Astramax, will go on sale next month.

It joins the existing Novavan and Astravan, as well as Ford's Fiesta and Escort ranges, the Nissan

Conservative, reliable and massively successful, Ford Transit is way ahead of the rest

Sunny Van, Fiat Fiorino, Citroën C15 and Renault Extra. Renault's inroads into the small van sector stand out, with sales up more than a third in the year to August, while Rover continues to struggle as sales of its Maestro slump.

Sales of panel vans, basic vans off the assembly line before any modifications (these figures do not include car-derived vans), in August were down 4 per cent on last year to slightly more than 14,500.

Although Leyland Daf Vans' Cub is about the cheapest on the market, the company's share is down from 11 per cent to 8 per cent, and its approach to adverse trading conditions seems to be a move away from volume sales.

The only specialist van manufacturer in the United Kingdom, it has evolved a niche in quirky light

commercial construction, providing bespoke vehicles to utilities and other fleet users. Nissan, with a range including the Cabstar and Vanette, has seen its sales down a fifth in the year to August on the medium van market.

Within this difficult market, the Ford Transit carries on regardless. As with Brio, Hoover and the Duhux dog, the brand name has become synonymous with a generic term: to many people, a van actually is a Transit. Reliable, conservative and massively successful, it is a long way ahead of the rest, with a market share above 50 per cent.

The competition, trailing behind, comes from the Volkswagen Transporter, Renault Trafic, and from the oddly similar shapes of the Citroën C25, Peugeot-Talbot Express and Fiat Ducato. These three, which offer the same body shell with different engine options, are the product of an Italian-based partnership between Fiat and the French firm PSA, which owns Citroën and Peugeot.

A generally good resale value, coupled with question-marks over some of the others' rates of depreciation, has certainly helped maintain the Transit's seemingly unassailable position.

The recent relaunch in the UK of the Iveco Daily van and chassis cabs at 3.5 tonnes rivals the Transit for the first time since Iveco Ford Truck was formed. Given the original agreement between the two to stop imports of the Daily at 3.5 tonnes, it is logical that the new weight is now sold through dealers which have no Transit franchise.

Despite the apparent novelty value, however, it requires a significant leap of the imagination to see the Daily — or anything else for that matter — challenging the range of its better-known joint venture partner.



Customers may be difficult to find, but Vauxhall will have the high-cube Combo, to replace the Astramax, on forecourts next month

Medium market under threat

Department of Transport changes to licence rules could restrict the number of people using commercial vehicles

From 3.5 tonnes upwards, the van market is shrinking, with little evidence that a concerted recovery is imminent or even possible. Adam Hill writes. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' figures for the year to July showed a downturn almost everywhere on the same period in 1992.

Iveco Ford, Mercedes-Benz (with more than 80 per cent of the market between them) and Renault lead the field in the weight categories from 3.5 tonnes to 7.4 tonnes. Despite the fall in overall sales the first two have increased their share, although Renault has dropped back to 13 per cent. Iveco Ford's Daily range and Cargo series just make the top slot, ahead of Mercedes-Benz's T1 and T2 ranges. Renault's Messengers and Midliners remain a distant third.

As with most of the rest of the industry, several parts of this class are under severe pressure. Dropsided vans and tippers are, on the face of it, particularly poorly placed at the moment. Similar to trucks, with high payloads and large load volumes, they are popular with the construction industry where rapid access to products not requiring protection from the elements is an important plus. With a fall in demand usually linked to

the economic vulnerability of buyers, and with building-related markets patchy at best, there can be only cautious optimism for this section of the market.

While it is true that the municipal authorities are continuing to buy such vehicles for waste management and other work, the restrictive effect of privatisation on buying power in local services has made its mark. Although the recent advent of Leyland Daf Vans' 400 series tipper would appear to indicate some movement, the company makes it clear that the launch is a continuation of the niche market development for which it has become known this year, and not an attempted assault on large volume sales.

The 7.5 tonne market, on the borderline between van and truck, is the traditional flagship for volume sales. In the seven months to July 1993, the overall sales of vehicles between 7.4 and 7.5 tonnes were nearly three times those between 3.5 and 7.4 tonnes.

But this market is threatened by

two government proposals. For the three manufacturers at the top of this tree (Iveco Ford, Leyland Daf — a separate company to Leyland Daf Vans since the buyout — and Mercedes-Benz) there is justifiable cause for concern. Mercedes-Benz's T2s, Leyland Daf's 45 series and Iveco Ford's Cargo range are big earners. With huge shares of the market split between them (Mercedes and Daf in the mid-20 per cent and Iveco with more than 40), there is a lot to lose.

The first Department of Transport plan is to restrict the number of people able to drive commercial vehicles by lowering the heavy goods vehicle licence threshold from 7.5 tonnes to 3.5 tonnes.

At the moment, anyone with an ordinary driver's licence can drive a truck with a gross vehicle weight of up to 7.5 tonnes. This means vehicle rental firms buy a considerable number because people will hire the biggest truck they can to move house, for example. Thus, demand for the weight is high precisely because 7.5 tonnes is on

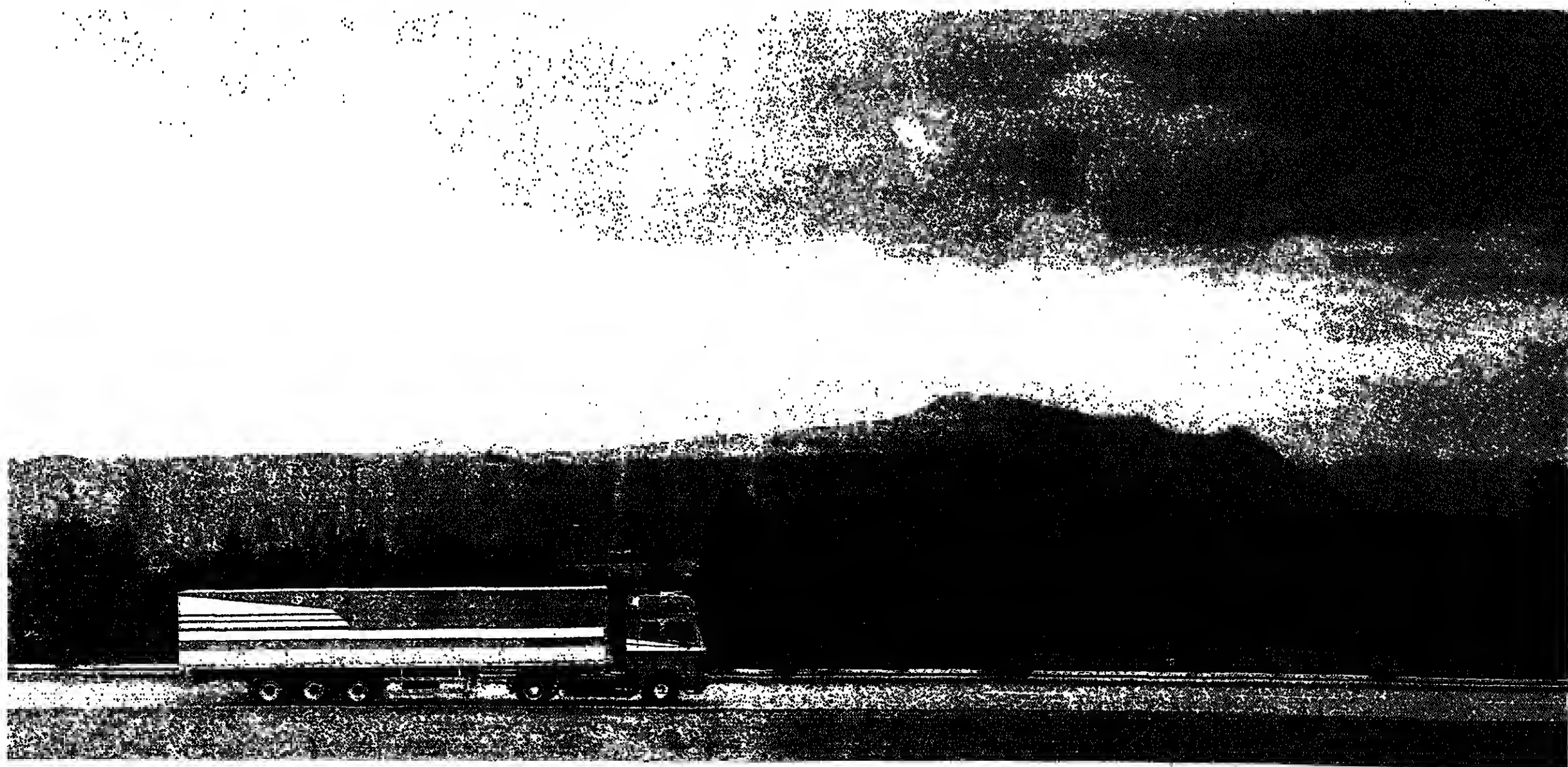
the legislative threshold. Once you need an HGV licence, however, that appeal starts to wane.

The second proposal is to ease regulations on firms which want to operate commercial vehicles by raising the weight (from 3.5 tonnes to 6 tonnes, an EC minimum) at which an operator licence — a mandatory document issued on behalf of the Department of Transport to permit the running of trucks — is required.

Whatever happens these operators will need an HGV licence, but by buying vehicles in the 6-tonne range they avoid the need for an O licence. Any additional paperwork can be viewed as a disincentive for the independent business person: cutting out the cost and hassle of renewal each year will prove attractive. In return, the payload reduction between 7.5 tonnes and 6 tonnes may be seen as minimal.

Therefore a second sizeable section of the traditional buyers of the 7.5 tonne range — this time the smaller operators — could be lost. No wonder the manufacturers are worried: at a time when no one can offer any firm indicators of an uptick, the last thing they want is to see sales potentially slipping in this way.

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Mercedes-Benz is a safer, more efficient truck for the operator. But a truck with the three-pointed star happens to be a more environmentally sound way of transporting goods than many other trucks, too. Naturally, Mercedes-Benz trucks meet all known noise and emission

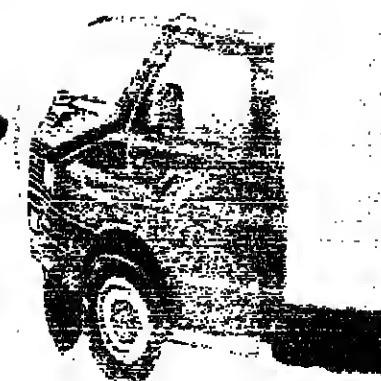
legislation, but they go much further. The paints Mercedes use, for example, are largely water, not solvent-based. There's widespread use of recycled materials in the production process. And none of the foams or refrigerants used to make a Mercedes contain ozone-damaging CFC's.



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Daily 3.5 ton

Body and trailer builders have a problem promoting their wares. John Towers on a market which is not going to let over-stretched budgets keep it down

No need to get complex

British builders of commercial vehicle bodywork and trailers feel under threat. The government has proposed a change in the height and weight limits in some vehicles, which could cause a shake-up in the market.

The height limit for the traditional articulated truck is 4.2 metres, where the truck has a gross weight heavier than 32.5 tonnes. However, the drawbar combination has no such limit. Drawbar trucks use a load-carrying truck section plus a load-carrying trailer. Articulated vehicles are powered by a non-load carrying "tractor" and the cargo travels in the trailer.

The government has suggested that both types should have a 4.2m height limit from 35 tonnes upwards. These 35-tonners will need four axles — like their 32.5-tonne predecessors — but some will need a "road friendly" suspension, too. The changes could mean more demand for articulated lorries at the 35 tonnes threshold. Some firms, however, believe that an increased demand for drawbar trucks will be at the expense of the solo load-carrying "rigid" trucks.

According to the builders of

commercial vehicle bodywork and trailers, this fresh set of rules will be complicated. This sector has seen big upheavals in the recent past with names, such as the old York company going into receivership and having its assets stripped. The trailer market is particularly price-sensitive. Margins are notoriously slim but legislative changes mean investment and development are essential.

In both the trailer and bodywork markets there are a few big firms and a host of smaller competitors. Leaders in the UK trailer market include Fruehauf, which is part of a Europe-wide group which has its factories in Norfolk. Montracon Tasker is a newer name, created when the privately-owned Northern Ireland trailer-builder, Montracon, bought its English rival Craven Tasker from the John Brown group.

Another change in ownership affected Boalloy, a company famous for its curtain-sided trailers and bodies sold under trademarks including the new near-generic Tautliner. Boalloy was owned

by Marling Industries but was sold to a buy-in and management buy-out team last year.

Broadbent co-operated in the takeover with Don Burton, head of another trailer and body specialist, Don-Bur. Yet another specialist is Lawrence David, a firm which covers a great deal of the market.

High volume chassis-less trailers, intermodal swap bod-

The name York is now used by another company, Aveling Barford.

Refrigerated vehicles have come to the fore with new government regulations on food hygiene. These require strict temperature controls during transport and proof that the temperatures can be achieved. Specialists include GRP Massey, Gray & Adams and Schmitz. Competitors include the French groups Lamheret and Chereau. The latter sells its products in the UK through Don-Bur.

Tipperers are a category in themselves. Names such as Welford, Dennison, Wilcox, PPG, Weighlifter and Wisbech operate alongside the bigger names. The government is presently looking into the noise tippers make when travelling empty.

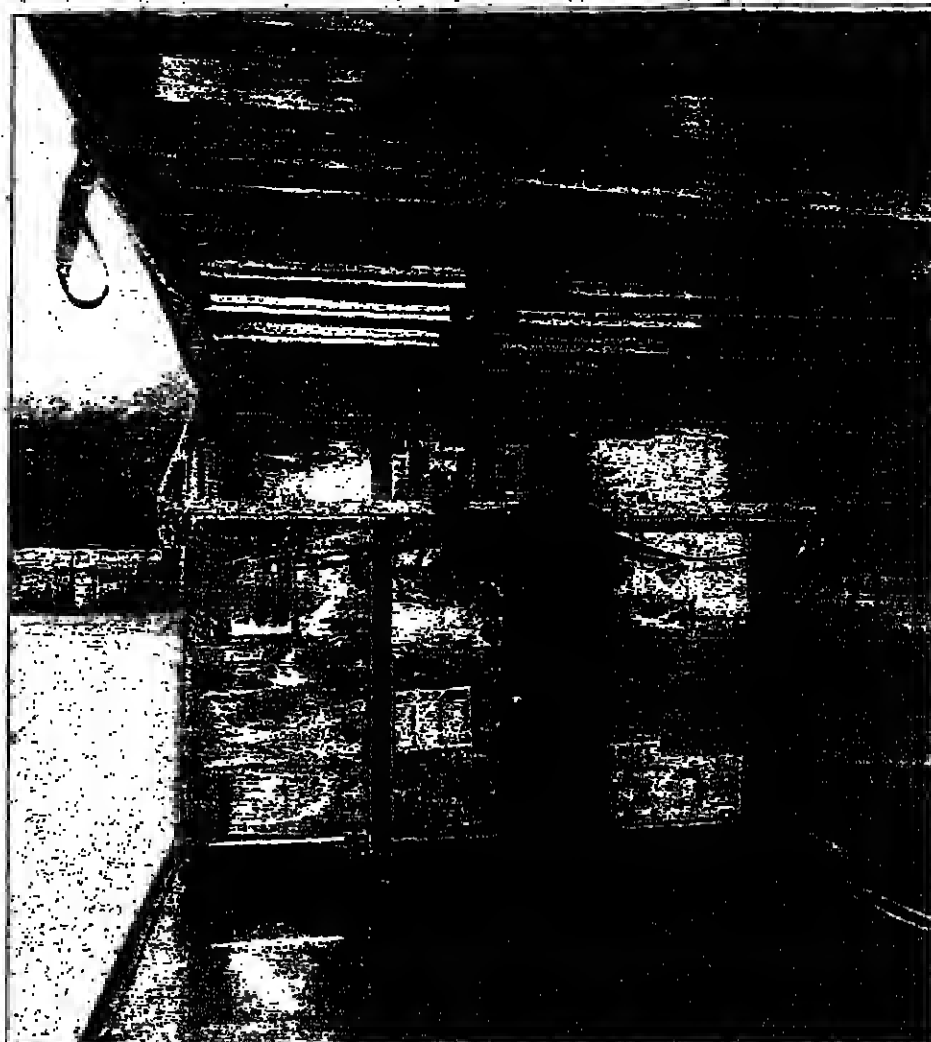
In the powder tanker market are firms such as Metalair and the big German specialist, Feldbinder. Liquid tankers, used for carrying everything from fruit juice to sulphuric acid, come from builders such as Freuhauf, Melton and Thompson Carmichael.

Other products in this fragmented market include "skeletal" trailers for carrying marine containers, low loaders to move machinery and flat platforms to carry anything and everything.

Most body and trailer builders have a problem promoting their wares. Although the trade journals cover the bulk of the market and there are various trade shows, many firms find their budgets are overstretched, particularly since they also need to develop new products to prepare for the long-awaited recovery.

Important British shows are the Institute of Road Transport Engineers' events at Telford, Shropshire, in May, and Glasgow in September. The Road Haulage Association runs tipper and tanker exhibitions in May and June, and the refrigerated vehicle market specialist show is Temperature Controlled Storage and Distribution at Manchester in November.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders plans a bodywork show next spring in the Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. But for many firms, word of mouth is still the best method of selling its goods.



The curtainsided body has been a success in the UK and is becoming popular in Europe

For many companies, word of mouth continues to be the best method of selling their goods



US-owned Ryder has won the contract to deliver components on behalf of Nissan

Logistics sector is in for a shake-up

The recession has meant that companies have been taking a fresh look at the ways of delivering goods

The days of a fleet of lorries dedicated to a single customer are nearly over as companies shift towards shared-user services in an attempt to slash costs.

At a recent Institute of Logistics seminar, Alan Cole, chief executive of Transport Development Group, said: "The recession has meant that customers can no longer necessarily afford dedicated contracts."

Peter Hindley, the Home-ride Foods distribution manager, says "shared-user would be cheaper than dedicated contracts unless a company was of a sufficient size". In the retail sector, dedicated contracts are often more suitable because of the time-sensitive

nature of the products, he added.

Martin Green, a Touche Ross managing consultant, expects a big shift towards shared-user with more vehicles on the roads in the liveries of distribution companies. "There are cost and environmental benefits to be had," Mr Green says.

In the world of food retailing, Safeway, the supermarket giant, believes there is potential in the UK for a "cross-docking" system which has been introduced in Sweden and America. This is where

sales-led orders are held in a central warehouse with common users.

The Swedish giant Inter Forward believes the surge in popularity for shared-user services has left many firms high and dry. "After a decade of dedicated contracts, there is a deficit of managers in certain age groups who are competent in shared-user operations," Rodney Stoyel, the managing director says. He is a supporter of "composite distribution" — either shared-user, dedicated distribution or both, depending on customers' needs.

Almost three-quarters of companies using third-party firms are seriously thinking of switching contractors, according to a report from P-E International. Nearly 60 per cent of P-E International's respondents had changed their contractors over the past three years.

The main reason for a company's decision to contract out is the need to increase flexibility, says Jan Szymankiewicz, who heads P-E's logistics consultancy operation. "This is a result of increased service pressures and the need

to react quickly to changing volumes in recession."

Recently, shake-ups have been taking place within the brewery distribution sector. In July, Whitbread decided to go back to in-house primary distribution work. The third-party firms of Exel Logistics and Tibbett & Britten are therefore not having their contracts renewed.

The road haulage lobby insists that sophisticated logistics solutions will never replace the need for trucks. The number of vehicles on UK's roads is likely to rise by as much as 25 per cent by the year 2000, according to the British Roads Federation.

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Companies meet the high cost of change

Because of their size, trucks make an obvious target for environmentalists to brand as a dangerous polluter of urban life and the countryside. Yet road transport remains the cheapest way to distribute most types of goods and has won market share from other forms of freight carrier, mainly because the industry has adapted well to economic changes and environmental pressures.

Many of the demands from the EC to operate quieter, safer and less polluting trucks have been complied with at considerable cost to the user and truck manufacturer. Electronics have played an important part in achieving it. There has never been such rapid change in the history of the truck.

Complying to new regulations and improving the road performance of the truck has decreased the average payload. But so far there has been little compensation from the EC or the British government towards increasing the gross weight or volume to enable the full payload potential of the improved trucks to be achieved.

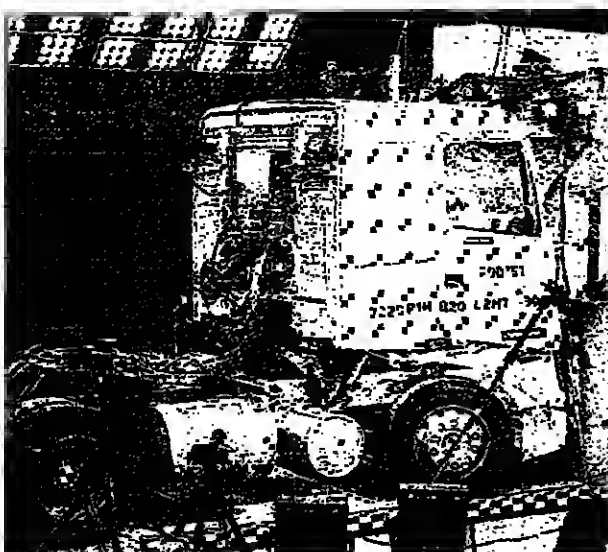
It is some time since the EC allowed the maximum length of articulated lorries to be increased by around 11 per cent and the truck and trailer combination, or drawbar lorry, by less than 2 per cent. But in Britain, a haulier is restricted to 38 tonnes maximum weight for a further five years, until, on January 1, 1999, the same vehicle will be allowed to operate at 40 tonnes gross.

One provision is a road-friendly driving axle design, which most already had complied to and that will raise the axle capacity to support 11.5 tonnes instead of the present 10.5-tonne share of the gross weight.

However, Parliament will be voting on whether to allow 44-tonne trucks to take loads from railway heads, and which will be no larger and do less harm to roads than 38 tonnes.

The Freight Transport Association says a 44-tonner would remove some 9,000 of the heaviest vehicles from British roads, save 300 million litres of diesel fuel and a million tonnes of polluting gases from

Mike Cunningham on how truck manufacturers have developed their vehicles for the 21st century



Most development research for new trucks is costly

entering the atmosphere. The transport department is proposing to allow certain lorries more volume, if not deck space, which should benefit carriers of low density goods. Most British road bridges are high enough to allow an overall height limit of 4.2 metres above 32.5 tonnes, while on the Continent, the bridges are generally lower, so the overall height limit is 4.0 metres. The transport department is proposing to remove the height restriction on articulated lorries and truck and trailer combinations up to 35 tonnes gross. Users of vehicles higher than 4.88 metres, which are few in numbers, could be made to give traffic commissioners two days' notice of the route they intend to take.

Another important change proposed is that a drawbar lorry with a length of up to 18 metres and restricted to 35 tonnes will be allowed the same gross weight of 38 tonnes as its articulated counterpart.

These changes could increase the vehicle flexibility and bring economies to retail distribution.

Legislation has forced up the amount of investment needed when developing new trucks to such a point that it has cost some companies dearly in attempting to produce low polluting and safer trucks.

In 1960, there were 59 truck manufacturers in western Europe, while following the recent merger of Renault and Volvo, the number is now 11. The major players are Mercedes-Benz, Renault, Volvo, Iveco, Scania, MAN and DAF, with five remaining based in the United Kingdom including Leyland, the American giant Paccar's Foden and the independent, ERF.

New designs of truck diesel engines are rare and expensive elements. Yet the cost of redesigning the existing ones to cut the nitrous oxides and particles of soot in the exhaust to the present Euro 1 and future

Euro II exhaust emission level is probably more difficult and nearly as expensive.

Volvo Trucks took the unusual step of launching its new FH cab and chassis with a brand new design of 12-litre engine.

It is the first European design to use new electronic diesel fuel injection unit technology, developed by Lucas. Volvo says it is confident the new engine will conform to the new Euro II proposal. That is a standard nearly as severe as the United States' 1994 level.

The cost of developing the Volvo engine was nearly half the £600 million investment in the total vehicle.

Two years ago Iveco committed some £2.5 billion to change its complete range, of which £1 billion was allocated to its engine emission programme.

Electronics are used in a variety of ways to improve the performance and safety of trucks.

For example, Volvo has found a way of relieving the driver of the physical and mental effort of shifting the 12 gears and a clutch with its Geartronic gearbox. It is done by fitting electro-pneumatic shifts that are sensed through the engine electronics to improve on the fuel consumption that a skilled driver could achieve.

For some time, regulations have required trucks of 16 tonnes and their trailers to be fitted with electronic-sensed anti-skid ABS braking systems. On uneven braking surfaces, it restores the truck's directional control.

Electronics also play a part in limiting the speed of trucks to 60mph and are mandatory with new vehicles of 12 tonnes and over. The speed setting is to be reduced from January 1 to 50mph. A number of fleets, including NCC's Exel Logistics, have already restricted their drivers to 50mph and report considerable savings in fuel consumption.

Instead of being noisy and smelly beasts, trucks are today brimming with electronics and some operators even use satellite communications to keep close contact with their drivers.



Volvo's Geartronic, part of a £600 million investment, uses electronics in the engine and gears to save fuel

Dealers with new equipment and premises will be the ones to succeed

British commercial vehicle dealers operate in a market unique in Europe — the largest, most open and most competitive market, not dominated by any single truck manufacturer. But, judging by previous recessions, this structure will not survive unchanged.

Recession in the 1970s and 1980s triggered a radical restructuring in the UK truck industry with numerous takeovers and mergers between established truck builders, both British and Continental.

Since then, there has been a sharp decline in the number of truck manufacturers serving the British market with a drop from 14 to the present nine. Supporting main dealer networks have reduced from about 1,100 to under 600 and this trend will continue with only about half remaining by the end of the decade.

Truck manufacturers rely heavily on dealers using local knowledge to sell — and even market — their trucks. This is evident in the growing number of truck manufacturer-owned dealerships. A last resort for manufacturers, this short-term phenomenon is driven purely by the need to maintain national coverage and fill in the gaps in their networks. Even so, the financial frailty of many dealers has forced manufacturers to inject large sums of money into their distribution networks.

It is only the larger dealerships that will have sufficient resources to invest in new sites and equipment needed to service today's trucks. And, although there will be a decline in the number of dealerships in the 1990s, those companies remaining will become larger, with dealers each handling a larger territory. This will also bring about a move away from large sites with 20 repair bays workshops in favour of more, but smaller, outlets.

Truck dealerships do not produce high margins and to achieve any reasonable return on investment, there must be better utilisation of assets with a higher volume put through the fixed costs of the site.

Twenty-four hour operations are now becoming common among dealers, partly to increase volume, but also in response to operator demand for out-of-hours servicing to reduce vehicle down time. Multi-franchising, where dealers represent more than one truck manufacturer, as happens in the car industry, will become more common despite resistance from truck manufacturers.

A growing concern for dealers, and one of the reasons behind the fall in their number, is the decline in the amount of service and maintenance work. Trucks have become more reliable over the past ten years and service intervals have been extended. Repair and maintenance needs have fallen by 25 per cent during this period, along with demand for emergency breakdown services often provided by dealers, resulting in surplus workshop capacity throughout Britain.

When big means best



One of the Mercedes outlets now sold to Lex Service

However, despite this over-capacity, there are a number of factors working in favour of progressive, well-managed dealerships.

Although trucks need less servicing, they are becoming much more sophisticated and the workshop equipment needed for their maintenance is expensive. It is commonplace for trucks to be fitted with equipment such as electronic fuel injection, on-board computers, electronic speed and mileage recorders, electronic diagnostic systems, and lock braking, electronic gear selection, and automated transmission controls.

While many truck operators may have the facilities and the technical competence necessary to maintain this level of equipment, the cost of diagnostic and analysis equipment needed to service vehicles is prohibitive. In some cases, truck manufacturers will only supply diagnostic systems to their franchise dealers.

For operators the problems of maintenance are further compounded by the lack of standardisation of analysis systems among truck manufacturers. Many operators will not be able to justify the capital outlay for equipment to service one, let alone several makes of truck. Dealers, however, have the volume of work to achieve the business necessary to justify the capital cost as well as training costs for workshop personnel.

Legislation too will work in favour of the dealer. Operators are likely to be faced with ever more demanding legal requirements for vehicle operation in areas such as engine emissions. Dealers are far better placed, in terms of equipment and personnel, to ensure that vehicle maintenance is of a standard to keep vehicles operating to specification.

The market for truck service and maintenance work is split roughly equally between fran-

amounts of money in sophisticated workshop equipment and to provide training for workshop personnel to cope with the next generation of trucks, coupled with tougher environmental and safety legislation governing vehicle performance, are all good reasons for truck operators to consider relying on the specialist dealer for service and maintenance.

There is also no reason why British franchise truck dealers should not be able to increase their share of the service and maintenance market from the present 35 per cent to 60 per cent or more, in line with the share enjoyed by their continental counterparts.

Truck operators have become much more knowledgeable and professional about commercial vehicle purchase. Their criteria places less emphasis on the specification and price of trucks and more on the availability of after-care and support services, front-end financial packages, and whole life operating costs — all areas dealers can influence.

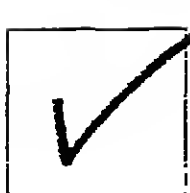
Increasing standardisation between trucks means that manufacturers will need to use their dealers to provide many of these services to meet the new demands of truck operators. Dealers large enough to provide the financial resource to sustain investment in new equipment and premises, as well as recruit and train the appropriate staff, will be the ones to succeed.

The need to invest large

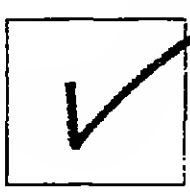
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Government deregulation of buses and a review of road freight rules have led to important changes on our roads



The newest addition to Torbay Bayline fleet in south Devon are the IVECO midibuses which replace minibuses

Making new tracks

The number of bus passengers continues to fall each year, albeit slowly. Purchases of new vehicles are running at about 2,000 a year, a little higher than a year or two ago. If sales stay at this level and the total UK bus fleet remains at about 60,000, we shall be seeing many 25-year-old buses on our roads.

This is partly the long-term result of the deregulation of the industry in the mid-1980s, and the subsequent sell-off of state-owned companies. After dramatic changes of this nature, new companies need to establish a track record. They therefore make little capital investment, due to almost unrestricted competition for a limited number of passengers. The real competitors of the bus are not other buses, but trains, cars, bicycles, walking...

The present situation harms the bus industry in the eyes of planners and politicians. The modern bus can help solve environmental problems in towns and cities far more cheaply than new tramways, railways or inner ring roads. But if people do not see modern, bright, clean, low-emission vehicles, they tend to discount the solutions they could offer.

The UK therefore lags be-

If people do not actually see clean buses on the street, they tend to discount the solutions they offer

hind France, Germany, Sweden and even Brazil, where imaginative solutions have been applied to the obvious problems of urban congestion and pollution. Given a measure of priority, efficient and frequent bus services can move considerable numbers of people in comfort and at low cost. Guided busways are far cheaper to build than light railways but offer similar benefits.

Planners still have an obsession with pedestrianisation schemes. They may be able to offer reasonable access for motorists by building new, expensive multi-storey car parks, but they often forget the needs of the young, the elderly and families without cars.

London could see some improvements. The congestion around the City to deter the IRA has increased bus patronage. Further red routes on main traffic arteries will give buses greater reliability and quicker journeys. A project to show those waiting for buses how long it will be before the next one arrives is likely to

increase passengers. However, to provide such displays at all stops would be extremely expensive, and no bus company will spend such money unless it has security of tenure on its routes.

London Buses has already been divided into 11 subsidiary companies which are to be offered for sale to employee-management buy-outs or to outside bidders, subject to legislation being passed in the next parliament. Later, the government plans to permit open competition on all London routes, though there are grave misgivings about the effects of traffic congestion caused by too many buses chasing too few passengers. The government is also pushing local authorities which still own bus companies to sell them.

The size of buses has changed dramatically. Deregulation encouraged numerous minibuses — converted vans — seating 16 to 18. They could be run more frequently at lower cost and attract more traffic. However, they lack

sufficient capacity to cater for sudden surges in demand and are generally being replaced by midibuses, seating 25 to 30.

A niche for a larger bus has been created by the manufacturer, Dennis. Its successful rear-engined 9-metre-long single-decker seats 40 people. Sales of this size of vehicle are higher than those of long single-deckers and all double-deckers put together, though for the movement of real crowds the double-decker is likely to remain supreme.

Liverpool, London and Tyne & Wear should all see new low-floor buses on trial this year. They are expensive to build, but easier for the disabled, the elderly, and mothers with small children and pushchairs to use. There is also interest in alternative fuels. Reading Transport has tried rape seed oil, and Volvo is about to demonstrate a bus running on natural gas.

Running buses is never likely to be highly lucrative. Badgerline Holdings successfully owns a number of bus companies and is seeking a stock-market quotation. Its pre-tax profit last year was £32 million on a turnover of £127 million: a reasonable return but not rich pickings.

JOHN ALDRIDGE

A threat to safety?

The number of operators found running unroadworthy trucks has risen dramatically this past year

Proof of regular vehicle maintenance — one of the cornerstones of truck licensing — could be abolished under radical government changes.

Trade associations, unions and influential industry experts have attacked the proposals, saying that road safety would be jeopardised.

The plans are part of a major review of licensing road freight operations. Every company wanting to run commercial vehicles over 3.5 tonnes must have an Operator Licence which requires proof of regular vehicle maintenance, financial stability and at least one manager with professional qualifications.

The Department of Transport argues that the legal commitment to maintain trucks is unnecessary because other legislation — such as the annual MOT test — ensures companies keep trucks in a roadworthy condition.

Mounting concern about truck maintenance has been voiced over the past few months. The number of truck operators who are found running unroadworthy vehicles has risen dramatically. The last report from the Licensing Authorities, which administer licences for transport operators, said there were 82 convictions on maintenance grounds in the year to March 31, 1993 — an increase of 60 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Michael Turner, of the south-eastern metropolitan licensing authority, wrote in his last report to John MacGregor, the transport secretary: "The picture I want to paint is one of an industry where money has been very tight and where it has been a great temptation for operators

to skimp on maintenance, to overload vehicles and to overwork drivers."

But the industry says road safety is not its only concern. Fears are also growing over plans to privatise the 91 truck testing stations which are operated by the government executive agency, Vehicle Inspectorate (VI). The truck MOT network looks as if it will be sold and officials plan to announce legislation within the next two months.

Price Waterhouse, the consultants, have been appointed by the Department of Transport to investigate privatisation options. Details of the sell-off will probably be contained in the Queen's Speech in November.

The DoT decided to press ahead with its privatisation plans despite widespread rejection of goods vehicle testing privatisation when the industry was first consulted.

The transport tribunal — an influential legal body in the road transport world — strongly criticised the plans, saying moves to contract out testing would risk public safety.

The Scottish Police Federation said savings from privatisation would be outweighed by the loss of truck safety and roadworthiness standards — and it voiced fears that it would lead

to an increase in the accident rate of heavy goods vehicles. Doubts were also expressed by several organisations about uniform national standards in a privatised service and how private testing would be monitored. The government, how-



What future for operators' maintenance programmes?

ever, claims the road transport industry will be better served by a private MOT network and that steps will be taken to ensure safety standards will not drop.

It has toughened MOT tests for goods vehicles since the VI became an executive agency and the DoT says the effects of such moves are already being seen.

Despite a 4 per cent rise in the annual truck test failure rate last year, the VI insisted the increase was not due to a decline in maintenance standards.

Ron Oliver, the VI chief executive, said in the annual report that the jump in heavy goods vehicles and trailer test failures was due to additional MOT checks such as metered diesel smoke checks, tougher headlamp tests and better brake testing

examinations. In 1992-3, 844,984 heavy goods vehicles underwent an MOT test.

Encouraging signs on the maintenance front have also been reported by some Licensing Authorities which have taken steps to try and improve vehicle maintenance by truck operators. Many companies, particularly small transport operators, are unaware of their legal responsibilities and seminars for new entrants in the industry have been set up. These courses place great stress on day-to-day transport operations and the vital role of planned maintenance practices.

They also emphasise the all-important knowledge that each holder of a licence to run trucks is legally responsible for the roadworthiness of vehicles — and that anybody running a truck can always contract out maintenance, but can never contract out of their legal responsibilities.

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MUSIC page 38
The 75th anniversary of
Leonard Bernstein's
birth celebrated at the
Barbican by the LSO

ARTS

ROCK page 39
Is the John Peel
generation too old to
know what music
means to teenage fans?



Rich taste of Devonshire cream

**Richard Cork hails
the largest survey
ever mounted of
drawings from the
great collection
at Chatsworth**

When the Duke of Devonshire sold 70 prime old-master drawings at Christie's in 1984, some observers may well have imagined that the collection at Chatsworth was severely depleted. Many of the finest specimens, by Rembrandt, Raphael, Holbein, Rubens and others, ended up in the Getty Museum. They will be included in a great loan exhibition from Malibu at the Royal Academy next month, but the drawings still at Chatsworth remain astonishingly abundant and impressive. Now, in the largest survey ever mounted of the Devonshire drawings, 220 works have been lent to the British Museum. Selected by Michael Jaffé, whose discerning eye has rectified many wrong-headed attributions, the show amply bears out his claim that, outside the royal holdings at Windsor, the graphics section of the Chatsworth inheritance is "unrivalled in its quality and extent as a historic family collection".

Most of its outstanding possessions were acquired by William Cavendish, who became the 2nd Duke of Devonshire in 1707. By frequenting the London auction rooms, and buying shrewdly from collections amassed by other British collectors, the duke built up a formidably various representation of the finest in Italian Renaissance draughtsmanship. He also managed to purchase Claude's renowned *Liber Veritatis*, and in 1724 secured his grandest coup by spending 12,000 florins in Rotterdam on more than 225 superb drawings from the son of Rembrandt's pupil Govert Flinck. The duke's collection rapidly became celebrated, but so did his generosity to informed visitors. Writing in 1727, one of them expressed his pleasure and surprise that the duke should be so accessible. "There are plenty of collectors," he wrote, "but almost no connoisseurs whose delight in their possessions is as much for others as for themselves."

Judging by the frequency with which the Chatsworth drawings are lent nowadays, the present duke upholds this tradition. And there is an overwhelming amount to savour at the British Museum. Take the group of Rembrandts, which concentrate on his love of the Dutch landscape. Using a reed pen, ink and wash, he deftly defines the rickety structure of a thatched cottage half-sheltered by a heavily foliated tree. Rembrandt's acute feeling for textures is conveyed with



Chatsworth treasures in London: Two studies of a man suspended by his left leg, c. 1530, by Andrea del Sarto (left); Portrait of a youth in a broad-brimmed hat, c. 1524-26, by Hans Holbein the Younger

the utmost economy, and a close look discloses a woman sitting quietly outside the cottage. Her contentment is as profound as the pleasure experienced in another drawing by the man sculling a boat on the Bullewijk, a tributary of the Amstel. And he, in turn, surely reflects Rembrandt's own delight in this serene locale, where nothing disturbs the rower's solitary progress and trees cluster protectively around a nearby farmstead.

Rembrandt's control of his materials may look unassuming at first, but it comes to seem miraculous. He knows precisely how to summarise forms without sacrificing their individual quirkiness, and his grasp of space and light is absolute. Rubens's chalk and ink study of a bramble-smothered tree is equally masterly. The trunk is dying, and another artist might have used it as a springboard for a gloomy meditation on mortality. But Rubens's innate vigour and optimism prevent him from giving way to despondency. His own handwriting points out that, among the fallen leaves, "in some places pretty green grasses peep

through". And the brambles themselves are seen as irrepressible new growth, leaping across the decayed bark as they affirm nature's continual ability to achieve regeneration.

No such hope can be detected in Andrea del Sarto's macabre drawing. Commissioned to paint a fresco of three captains, who had run away from Florence during the 1530 siege and been branded as traitors, he made an assured study of a man hanging by his left leg. Death by upside-down suspension must have been excruciatingly slow, and del Sarto shows the victim's mouth parting in agony. The artist, however, seems more concerned with the captain's clothes than the predicament he suffers. Great pains are taken by the strokes of red chalk to catch the folds of the clothes as they dangle down, suggesting that del Sarto invested the fresco with the utmost veracity. But the fact that he did not want his name associated with the subsequent whitewashed painting indicates how ashamed the artist may have been of his gruesomeness.

Drawing a hunchback might easily result in an even more heartless image. But Annibale Carracci shows immense compas-

sion in a red chalk study executed during the early years of his career. The top half of the boy's body is naked, revealing the full, lumpy swell of his misshapen back. Instead of treating him as a freak, though, Annibale lets his model turn to gaze at us with shy, sidelong wariness. Fearing taunts, the boy rests his cheek defensively on a twisted shoulder. He is seen as a suffering individual rather than an object of prying curiosity, and the artist's Goya-like inscription heightens the sense of sadness: "I do not know if God helps me."

Despite the drawing's obvious power, it was disregarded by scholars for centuries. Only in 1961 was it confidently assigned to Annibale, and Jaffé's catalogue shows just what a battleground the business of identifying artists can be. Another work by the same artist, a splendidly elaborate study of *The Battle between the Romans and the Sabines*, has until now

linguished at Chatsworth under the ignominious heading "Italian school, late 16th century". But now that Jaffé has pinpointed its authorship, this large and assured image is unlikely to return to its former obscurity.

Jaffé is just as resolute when he decides to take a drawing away from one artist and give it to a rather less familiar alternative. A marvellously spirited study of *The Holy Family* has for many decades been attributed to Guercino. But it makes no sense at all under his name. The work is presented here as a

Domenico Campagnola, the first himself to essential colours, swiftly set down and heightened with a few deft touches of white body colour.

In the latter case, no finished painting can be linked with the drawing. Whenever such a connection is possible, the exhibition places a small monochrome reproduction of the painting next to the relevant exhibit. These juxtaposi-

tions add enormously to the fascination of the show. They allow us to realise how much emotional intensity was lost when Annibale Carracci, having drawn a wonderfully impassioned study for *St Gregory attended by Angels praying for Souls in Purgatory*, then produced a tepid, stazy altarpiece of the same subject.

The making of such a fully realised drawing appears to have exhausted the artist's inspiration. Or perhaps the commission body shied away from the anguish conveyed by the study, and insisted on a more soothing image for the church. Either way, a considerable loss is involved. And even when the painting is as outstanding as Ghirlandaio's *The Birth of the Virgin* fresco in S Maria Novella, Florence, his chalk cartoon of a woman wearing a veil possesses an imperturbable poise which her counterpart in the final image lacks. The catalogue's failure to reproduce any of these paintings mars what is otherwise an illuminating survey of European draughtsmanship at its height.

Old Master drawings from Chatsworth, at the British Museum (071-636 1555) until January 9

**'The collection
remains
astonishingly
abundant and
impressive'**

Good times in Gomorrah

**TELEVISION: Benedict Nightingale on
the first episode of *Tales of the City*,
adapted from Armistead Maupin's stories**

Depends how it is treated, I suppose, but isn't there something irritating about the story of the country mouse in the big, bad city? So often it becomes an occasion for boastful cynicism, as unsophisticated in its way as the naïveté which the writer is patronisingly mocking. "Gosh, New York, you'll find a mugger on every street", "Wow, Paris, come watch me sip absinthe on the Left Bank", "Phew, Berlin, did you see that transvestite dancer?" You know the sort of dizzy nostalgia *de la boue*.

An entertaining example of this somewhat provincial anti-provincialism is the miniseries which has been adapted by Richard Kramer from Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* and launched last night on Channel 4. The setting was San Francisco in 1976, a place and time supposed to fill the impressionable with awed inferiority. The hoped-for reaction was not "Gosh, Sodom!", because that would have verged on the politically incorrect. But "Wow, Gomorrah!" would surely have delighted Alastair Reid, who directed, and everybody else involved.

The country mouse in *Tales of the City* actually came from Cleveland, which has always struck me as a perfectly civilised place. Here, though, it had the sort of

resonance that Bogner Regis did in 1940s comedies. Ohio might have been the planet Pluto, so out of touch was Mary Ann — as the ingénue at the centre was inevitably called — with the glamorous realities of California.

"Coke?" asked someone, referring to a snort of guess-what. "No, I'm on a diet," dimpled back Laura Linney's wide-eyed Mary Ann in her mirth-inducing manner.

Nevertheless, she managed to defy her cartoon Ohio mom ("you can't just run off with a bunch of hippies") and set about discovering wicked Frisco. Everywhere there were pick-up joints — bars, bath-houses, supermarkets, even laundromats — and everywhere people were having sex both straight and curved.

Eventually, Mary Ann herself succumbed to the slimy charms of Beauchamp (Thomas Gibson), her boss's son-in-law. "Innocence is very erotic," he murmured over the noon-tide vino. "I think my lunch hour's over," sniggered poor gauche Mary Ann. And off they went for a night of loveless love somewhere up the coast.

That particular relationship seems kaput, though we can expect to see more of Beauchamp and his sexually frustrated wife Dede (Barbara Garrick). The next four epi-



Place in the sun: Chloe Webb and Marcus D'Amico

sodes will presumably also deepen our acquaintance with Donald Moffat's Edgar Halcyon (sic), an aging mandarin forlornly confronting terminal cancer. Chloe Webb's scatty Mona, Marcus D'Amico's Michael, who genially declares himself gay, and Paul Grosse's Brian, whose macho bluster may camouflage similar proclivities.

But the dominant character will clearly be Olympia Dukakis's Anna Madrigal, who is Mary Ann's bohemian landlady. Go to dinner in her exotic pad, and you'll find tiny

marijuana joints beside the olives and peanuts on the sideboard. She wears an orange kaftan, has a mother who kept a brothel called Blue Moon, and, asked if she objects to pets, serenely replies "dear, I have no objection to anything".

Mary Ann inevitably finds her "a little strange", not the sort of dame she knew in Cleveland. But we are clearly meant to see her differently. She is the spirit of San Francisco: liberated, knowing, tolerant — and, dare I say, pretty pleased with itself.

CINEMA: David Robinson reports on a French festival that celebrates British films

In only four years the Dinard Festival du Film Britannique has become one of the most important events in the calendar for British film-makers. Every year this little northern French seaside resort flies in an entire plane-load of film artists from Britain, and an equivalent number of their counterparts from Paris.

The town's single cinema is taken over, and local people pack every show to celebrate British films. This year the beach was dramatically populated with cut-out Hitchcocks. Would Bogner do as much for France?

Dinard is steadfastly anglophile. Its fame as a resort was built up at the end of the last century by British socialites. Queen Victoria and Edward VII came. Churchill and Lawrence of Arabia spent school holidays here.

So now they celebrate British cinema, thereby highlighting its startling paradox. Ours is one of the world's most threatened film industries. Yet despite the hardships — perhaps because of them — a tough new movement is suddenly apparent in British cinema: oppositional, subversive, angry.

A beach that is forever England

The new films are uncompromisingly about real life, here and now: the homeless, the unemployed, the culturally as well as the economically deprived. Remarkably, the new spirit is not generational: the films that made such a mark in Cannes this year came from veterans like Mike Leigh, Ken Loach and Stephen Frears as well as newcomers. They are not made to please, but to infuriate.

An outstanding instance is *Safe*, a first feature film by Antonia Bird which won the jury prize last week at Dinard. A picture of two homeless kids adrift in London, the film builds to a near unbearable climax of anger and despair.

Television is a capricious patron. After commissioning *Safe* for a feature-length slot, the BBC asked for cuts; audiences will see only a 65-minute version when it is transmitted next month. Having landed one of the best

films of the year, the BBC would have done better to heed Robert Altman's advice: "If you have a child who is seven feet tall, you don't cut off his head or his legs. You buy him a bigger bed and hope he plays baseball."

The veterans tackle similar social concerns. Mike Leigh's *Naked*, a triumph at Cannes, is a different view of homelessness. In his stunning performance, David Thewlis displays the cancerous growth of a frustrated intelligence. Ken Loach's *Raining Stones* achieves the considerable feat of remaining cheerful, without ever proposing false optimism about the existence of the chronically unemployed of the north-west. Stephen Frears' adaptation of Roddy Doyle's *The Snapper* speaks of other kinds of resilience, in a working-class Irish home harried by the community

when the eldest girl gets pregnant.

The Leigh, Loach and Frears films were shown out of competition in Dinard, where the main prize went to Andrew Birkin's adaptation of an Ian McEwan novel, *The Cement Garden*, about the children of a seriously dysfunctional English family who conceal the death of their mother. More representative of the Eighties school of "British playwrights' cinema" were Stephen Poliakoff's *Century*, an eccentric story about an idealist young turn-of-the-century scientist, banishing against the perversions of new science; and Howard Davies's *Secret Rapine*, based on David Hare's script. The latter brought Juliet Stevenson a special award.

Producers are prominent in Dinard; and the Anglo-French contacts evidently prove fruitful. They talk positively about co-production; and the French seem to be politicising their British partners. This year a fierce joint petition was shot off to the Gatt administrators, demanding the exclusion of culture from the trade agreement. Such things could never happen in Bogner.

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Dancing in a club with no age limit

Sorry, kids — pop music is a game for grown-ups. Adrian Deevoy talks to the wrinklies who still rule rock, whatever Radio 1 may think

After Monday's euthanasia-flavoured cull of disc-jockeys at BBC Radio 1, the issue of age has become a hot potato in popular music. Radio 1 controller-designate Matthew Bannister, 36, dealt the 45s to the over-45s, questions began to reverberate round the music industry.

Are innocent adolescents having their tastes manipulated by evil 50-year-old music barons? Is it undignified to enjoy a spot of jungle techno — the throbbing soundtrack to 1990s teenage life — if your hairline is in advanced recession? Leaving aside the obvious exception of Radio 1 stalwart John Peel, can you be too old to rock? In truth, this discussion has been around as long as God, or at least since Alan "Fluff" Freeman was a boy.

The youth culture has always been mostly myth. Despite persuasively glamorous appearances, the objects of adolescent fantasy have rarely been the autonomous outlaws they would have liked us to believe. For every pair of tight trousers and high cheekbones, there was a wiser and invariably older eminence grise. Come in Elvis and Colonel Tom Parker. Come on down the Sex Pistols and Malcolm McLaren.

Looking back further still, to the very maternity ward where pop was born, we discover that the Tin Pan Alley songsmiths who silkily constructed ballads to madden the hormones of Sinatra's bobby-soxers were old hands. Yet they tapped into those teenage emotions as if their hearts had just been broken at the local hop.

Phil Spector was the first producer of rock 'n' roll's toddler years to be a contemporary of the artists whose sound he so skillfully sculpted. Prior to the lollipop-slurping boy genius's appearance, sombre gentlemen in laboratory coats would man the faders while the youngsters did their thing on the other side of the studio glass.

Brian Epstein may not have been a great deal older than the Beatles, but he seemed to come from

another age (and Allen Klein looked as if he might have gone to school with Ringo's dad). The only 1960s Svengali actually younger than his charges was Andrew Loog Oldham, who in his shrewd and scurrilous management of the nascent Rolling Stones operated in a fashion that any cigar-chomper 20 years his senior could only envy.

Tom Watkins, manager of East 17, the pop-rap teen sensations, and former career-stealer-in-chief to Bros and the Pet Shop Boys, does not believe that age matters. "You can't dictate musical taste to people of any age," he says. "You just put the music on the band out there and people make up their own minds. They say there's no substitute for experience, but there's no substitute for common sense. If you're 19 and have common sense I don't see any reason why you couldn't manage a band as well as someone in their late thirties." And how old is Watkins? "I'm 44," he says, "although I don't look it. Must be all the lubricants I rub into my face."

Radio 1 is not aimed at a target audience of under-25s, says Radio 1 spokesman Jeff Simpson, who is 32. "Someone recently said that if Claire Sturgess [Radio 1's youngest DJ] is 26, she's too old to listen to Radio 1. That's rubbish. We're not ageist. We're just interested in people who enjoy music."

Long before music is considered for public consumption proper, prior even to it going before the Radio 1 playlist panel (the body of various ages, that decides what the DJs will play and how regularly), Muff Winwood, managing director of the artist-development label Sony Soho Square has to decide what he might enjoy listening to six months hence. To this end he employs a group of talent scouts half his age, with a finger in the wind and an ear to the ground.

"It's very unusual that I take on scouts who are over 23," Winwood says. "You're dealing principally with a record-buying pop market who are between the ages of 16 and 25. The scouts find through their own networking where the best



Pop's audience — such as these gleeful dancers at a London nightclub — does not seem to get old, but the people who market the music have always been of a certain age

gigs are. Once they are sure they're on to something they'll get me along. Hopefully, I'll think they're fantastic and that there's some commercial potential.

"That sort of thing comes with experience. Young people tend to get very caught up in the moment and sometimes it takes an older person to stand back and evaluate its real appeal in hard commercial terms. It's like the great football managers. They know the game, they know the tactics, but they don't actually get out and play."

And how old is Winwood (himself once a hitmaker alongside his brother Steve with the Spencer Davis Group)? "I'm as old as Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney and Rod

Stewart. But not added together." Allan Jones is the editor of *Melody Maker*, the 67,000-selling weekly music paper that focuses on young bands, most of which produce what can be described as uneasy, sometimes agonisingly uncomfortable listening. *Melody Maker*, Jones says, is aimed at "the active music fan aged between 16 and 22. Of course, when you are that age the last thing you want is some old git trying to manipulate what you listen to."

So how does he manage it? "Since the beginning of this year we've developed a policy to encourage even younger writers on the paper. So now you might get people out reviewing gigs who are 16 or 17.

Obviously they need a modicum of literary ability, but energy, opinions and attitude are the main qualifications. As a team we're skilled and experienced enough to turn their copy into something relatively cogent and readable."

Jones speaks of instinct and "the climate of enthusiasm", although he admits that there is "an unofficial vetting process". If an ultra-keen cub reporter races into the office brandishing a copy of, say, the new Scabs of Genius EP, it will not necessarily result in immediate column inches.

"But *Melody Maker* isn't a reflection of my own musical tastes. If that were the case, in the mid-1980s we would only have put out

an issue whenever Elvis Costello did anything." And how old is Jones? "Forty-one. And honest."

And so the music business carousel spins merrily around with neither the young nor the old claiming they are being taken for a ride. They are, they insist, just one big happy family.

For the past four weeks, prior to Radio 1's DJ shakedown, Claire Sturgess had been slipping into the still-warm leather chair of Dave Lee Travis, 48 (who himself had resigned amateur-dramatically on air last month), to take over temporarily the vacant "carwash" slot on weekend mornings. This popular position has now been filled by Radio 5's Danny Baker.

Doubtless DLT's many devoted listeners will grumble that Baker, 36, is far too inexperienced to follow in the footsteps of the bearded broadcasting legend who brought us such revolutionary notions as snooker on the radio.

Meanwhile, Alan Freeman, 66 ("not 'all mate'"), announced his retirement from live broadcasting last week in order that he might concentrate on pre-recorded bi-part programmes such as *The Story of Pop* and *In Search of the Lost Riff*. This endeavour, some will inevitably contend, should be the responsibility of a citizen not yet eligible for a free bus pass. The argument, Zinner frames permitting, will run and run.

ROCK CONCERTS: Paul Sexton tastes two sorts of soul

McDonald's nuggets

BLUE-eyed soulster Michael McDonald warmed up for his appearance at the Albert Hall next Monday, with a preparatory concert in an appetisingly intimate club setting.

McDonald came through customs with his crack American band and an easy style born of two decades' experience with Steely Dan, the Doobie Brothers and as a soloist.

He has the kind of voice that sounds as though it could only be housed in a white man through some elaborate hoisting start to his post-Doobies career with the 1982 album *If That's What It Takes*. McDonald's subsequent releases have tended towards the unadventurous. They have been beautifully made and played, to be sure, but lacking the essential ingredient of lasting songs.

Indeed, McDonald began this show as if he felt nobody would be interested in anything he'd recorded since the

mid-1980s. First out of the traps was the Doobies' "Here To Love You," followed by "Sweet Freedom," his one bona fide UK solo hit single.

Close behind were earlier favourites such as "I Keep Forgettin'" and "Yah Mo B There," all expertly delivered and warmly greeted by a packed crowd. But wasn't he showing all of his aces too early?

Happily not, and that can be attributed in part to the choice of venue. Although the band took the show at a loudish rock pitch and not the more acoustic level that we have come to expect in rooms like the Jazz Café, McDonald still seemed far more at home than he had on his last visit, at the Hammersmith Odeon. His amiable but bland stage manner works far more easily in reduced circumstances, which makes one wonder about the

wisdom of the Albert Hall engagement.

Several numbers from the new Warner/Reprise album *Blink of an Eye* were eventually worked into the proceedings, with the title song "Everlasting" at least passing comparison with still-vibrant gems such as "Minute By Minute," "Tak'n It To The Streets" and the glorious "What A Fool Believes," from the late 1970s, a song so anthemic and familiar that it is impossible to believe it was never even a Top 30 hit here.

McDonald encored with "On My Own", on which his original partner Patti LaBelle was sorely missed, and somewhat unimaginative covers of "What's Going On," and "Higher Ground".

He may give the image consultants as much of a challenge as does John Major, even down to his venerably grey coiffure, but he will be a contender for as long as he retains the kind of voice that could crack the combination of a safe.

Smooth and sassy
Silk
Apollo, W6

SWV, H'Town, Intro and Jade. Every record company has at least two, who staged just such a "big night out" at the Apollo in Hammersmith.

UNV are a Detroit quartet signed to Madonna's Maverick label and, being in town as part of La Ciccone's travelling circus, were the perfect support act here. Bound together by hermetically sealed harmonies and symbiotic stagecraft, they gave a good account of songs from their debut album *Something's Goin' On*, particularly their opening "2B Or Not 2B" and "Close Tonight", and made a few hearts in the predominantly black audience miss a beat or two with their

unashamed sexual boasting and thrusting.

Cue Silk for the same, only more so. The headlining Atlanta liveones have shot up America's R&B rankings this year to score a million-selling pop No 1 with "Freak Me" and a platinum album first time out with *Love Control*. The group claim to live up to their name in everything: singing, dancing and — wait for it — *lurving*.

Taking the stage in lurid suits, Silk pressed hands, raised screams and thrust pelvises with practised ease and even found time for some impressive vocal interplay. Within 20 minutes, they were off for a costume change, keeping their rapt audience waiting for a seemingly risky ten minutes before returning in some alarming purple and white numbers to complete the job with a triumphant version of their chart-topper.

Silk, UNV and their like — and one has to confess they have a certain interchangeability — may be resuscitating every cliché in the soul manual, but they have also brought some professionalism and glamour back to the party.



Jayne Regan as Cinderella: by turns gentle and rebellious

DANCE: An unorthodox treatment of a familiar tale

Taking a Grimm view

NORTHERN Ballet Theatre has already staged two *Cinderellas* in its history, both unorthodox in their various ways. But we could depend on Christopher Gable, never one to shirk tackling things head on, to come up with a model of unorthodoxy.

The story of Cinderella apparently exists in some 400 versions throughout the world, and Gable seems to have read them all to create a ballet that contains just about everything to be found in fairy tales except, perhaps, for Sleeping Beauty's spindle and Snow White's dwarfs.

He bases his treatment of the story on Grimm — dark and violent — rather than Perrault, replacing the fairy godmother and pumpkin with Cinderella's dead mother and woodland birds as benevolent presences.

To this bubbling cauldron he adds his own ingredients. The relationship between Cinderella and her father develops into incestuous undertones. The birds become a recurrent

Cinderella
Lyceum, Sheffield

item, popping up again as doves (images of love), punitive ravens and fighting cockerels. Gable's Cinderella has also acquired a brother who dies in an apple-picking accident and then goes to act as another protective spirit.

Making his choreographic debut, Gable has produced an undistinguished mix of classical ballet, folk dance and vernacular movement. Operating on the dubious principle that several is better than one, Gable gives us repetition and length. Where one ball would have sufficed, he gives us two (as does Grimm). Where no solo for the stepmother would have been perfect, he introduces a curious cabaret-style number. Where two minutes for a sequence would have been ample, he spins it out to five or six.

Jayne Regan threw herself compellingly into the mar-

thon role, by turns gentle and rebellious, vulnerable and impish. William Walker was a handsome, elegant prince; any girl would cut her toes off for Jeremy Kerridge was a touching father; Victoria Westall a deliciously wicked stepmother.

Philip Feeney's made-to-measure score follows as required, with bouncy rhythms and simple tunes that rely on eclectic instrumentation for vividness.

The most successful contribution comes from Tim Hatfield's design. A rather sterile box-like space sets the story in Anjund, but when necessary cleverly uncovers doors, stairways, a kitchen hearth and cupboards.

The costumes belong to an equally hazy period, but include ravishing 1920s-influenced dresses. Congratulations also to the whole cast who acted and moved beautifully in the stamina-sapping conditions.

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1

Robson given the task of keeping Manchester United up to the mark against Honved

Ferguson sees danger in being spoilt for choice



Keane left in suspense

BY PETER BALL
AND KEITH PIRK

MANCHESTER'S football public regard tonight's first European Cup match at Old Trafford for 24 years as a forecast of greater things to come. But although United go into the game strongly placed, Honved's visit has already given Alex Ferguson a taste of the problems he will face to keep his players happy during a prolonged campaign.

With a 3-2 lead from the game in Budapest against a young, imaginative but naive Hungarian team, it would take a calamity for United to fail to progress into the second round. "Take your abacus with you," advised one observer who saw the first leg, mindful of United's own predilection for giving away goals as well as the porous Hungarian defence.

An awareness of that weakness.

or self-indulgence, very visible against Swindon last Saturday, has persuaded Ferguson to name his regular back five, and also to play Bryan Robson in centre midfield. Playing Schmeichel and Irwin takes up two of the five permitted non-English places.

Two more will be taken by Cantona and Giggs, leaving Mark Hughes and Roy Keane contesting the final position. And there's the rub. Tomorrow afternoon Ferguson will have to disappoint one of his outstanding players.

"You could toss a coin between Hughes and Keane," Ferguson reflected yesterday. "I won't be deciding between them as individual players, but on the balance of the side."

"We are talking here about leaving top class players out of big games, and there lies the problem - what leaving them out will do to

your relationship after you've made the decision. I hope Brian McClair and Andrei Kanchelskis have accepted it mentally, because I've brought in three young English players to work with the first team and those two haven't been involved, so they know they're not playing. But Hughes and Keane don't know that yet. They are both expecting to play, and one of them is going to be bitterly disappointed."

Apart from the effect on the unlucky player, it probably hardly matters which option Ferguson selects today. Many were surprised that he did not leave out Denis Irwin, but he insisted: "It is right to keep Irwin in. His form has been fantastic for 2½ years he has hardly put a foot wrong."

The need to maintain defensive discipline against a side he believes are capable of scoring at Old Trafford has also played its part in

the decision to play Robson alongside Ince as a steady influence. That decision means that Keane would have to play wide on the right, where he does not look comfortable, suggesting that Hughes may get the nod.

"I think Robson's experience is vital for this one," the manager said. "His main role will be to make sure there is no nervousness and that while we retain our positive nature we are a bit more disciplined than we were on Saturday. At times then, when our attacks broke down, everyone apart from the back four were forward, and they all just jogged back. I don't think he will let that happen."

Although Ferguson is being cautious, there is no thought that United will sit back, as some continental teams would do, in the knowledge that a 0-0 scoreline would be enough to take them

through. "Our nature is to attack," he promised. It could be a feast.

Arsenal, leading 2-1 from the first leg, can also be expected to go for the early goals at Highbury that would effectively settle their Cup Winners' Cup tie against Odense.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, adopted a cautious approach to the first match in Denmark, playing five across the middle and leaving Wright isolated in attack. Such pragmatism could have had painful repercussions as Odense, having missed an early penalty but been handed the initiative, took the lead.

It was only then that Graham reverted to his favoured formation, pushing Campbell up in support of the goals that make them overwhelming favourites. Graham will not, though, be taking Odense lightly. In the blond Allan Nielsen they have a

diminutive but skilled playmaker who will need careful attention, most probably from his fellow Dane, John Jensen.

Graham welcomes back Tony Adams, his captain, who was suspended for the first leg. Dixon, who has not played since the opening day of the season because of a foot injury, could return at right back.

Dixon's recovery may have come just in time to earn a place in the England squad - named on Monday - for their World Cup qualifying tie against Holland in Rotterdam on October 13. But Les Ferdinand's participation in that match is in doubt. The Queens Park Rangers striker damaged a hamstring during the match against Wimbledon on Monday night, but the extent of the damage is not yet known. "It is too early to be able to give a proper diagnosis," a Rangers spokesman said yesterday.

Rangers looking to Gough for added security in defence

BY RODDY FORSYTH

WHEN David Murray, the chairman of Rangers, sat down to plan the club's financial strategy for this season, he began with the fiscally prudent assumption that they would be dismissed from every cup competition in the first round. Since the team has reached the Scottish League Cup final he is already ahead on his projections. But a European Cup defeat today by Levski Sofia in the Bulgarian capital would be a severe blow to Rangers' desire to build on the success of last season.

Then, an unbeaten run of ten games in the tournament brought them an income of around £1 million per fixture and with the money the status of serious players at this level. But their chances of emulating that achievement hinge on their ability to defend a slim single-goal lead from the first leg against Levski.

For most of the game at Ibrox two weeks ago Levski looked an inconsequential team and when they trailed 2-0 late in the second half it seemed that the second leg would be little more than a formality.

However, a bout of unfathomably dismal defending permitted Todorov and Borimirov to score with free headers and only Hateley's intervention for the Scottish champions preserved a narrow margin for error.

The Levski manager, Georgi Vassilev, was understandably buoyed by this turn of events and yesterday repeated his assertion that if Rangers concede another goal early in tonight's contest they will be out of the tournament.

Rangers, though, are confident in their own prognosis, which is that they will extend to 13 their club record of

consecutive undefeated games in the European Cup. The return of Gough to central defence, where he and McPherson turned in monumental performances in the League Cup semi-final win over Celtic last week, should seal the gap at the back.

"I think we know just about what to expect from Levski and while they could be a handful on their own ground they are really a counter-attacking team who must now come forward at us, which leaves them open to our counter-attacks", Gough said yesterday after Rangers arrived in Sofia.

"We scored three against them at Ibrox and with a bit of luck it could have been double that, so we have to believe that we can score here, too. I am sure that if we score we will win or at least get a draw."

Balanced against Gough's return for Rangers is the restoration of Straker, Levski's most gifted forward, who played at the weekend. If this he had been played a week or two later, then McCaig might have been a starter to be included in a first team pool for the first time since he broke a leg in April.

McCall was rested on Saturday when Rangers met Hibernian at Ibrox and will resume in midfield this evening but Robertson, who limped off in that game, is rated as having no more than a half-chance of playing tonight.

Levski gained in self-belief by scoring twice at Ibrox but Rangers showed, when defending a 1-0 lead over Celtic when down to ten men last Wednesday, that last season's familiarity with cat and mouse football has not deserted them. Providing experience is not undermined by complacency, they should progress to the second round without undue difficulty.

Liam Brady, who has faced a number of crises in his 27 months with Celtic, will have to surmount another tonight. Defeat by Young Boys of Bern at Celtic Park in the second leg of the UEFA Cup tie would leave Celtic's season in tatters, for they have slipped to eighth in the premier division and are out of the League Cup. Celtic will be favourites, following the goalless match in Bern, but would be grateful for an early goal to settle the nerves.

AC Milan, who take a 1-0 lead into the home leg of their European Cup tie the Swiss champions, FC Aarau, have defied pre-season predictions that they would struggle without the Dutchmen, Frank Rijkaard, Rudi Gullit and Marco Van Basten.

After a 2-0 win at Cremonese had taken them two points clear at the top of the Italian League on Sunday, the Cremonese coach, Luigi Simoni, said they were as strong as ever. Milan, although missing Raduciu, through suspension, and Savicovic and Van Basten, through injury, can still call upon players of the quality of Brian Laudrup and Papin in attack. The Croat midfielder, Boban, will be the team's third foreign player.



Freeman, right, the New Zealand captain, and his youngest player, Gene Ngamu, take a break during training at Swansea yesterday

Williams takes wing for Japan

BY GERALD DAVIES

THE Japanese begin their six-match tour of Wales when they play Wales A at Stradey Park, Llanelli, this evening. The visit incorporates matches against Durnav, East Wales, West Wales and a selection drawn from the third and fourth divisions of the Heineken League. The tour finishes with a full international against Wales on October 16.

This is the third Japanese visit to Wales but, unlike those other occasions, the touring party, in line with selectorial habits developing elsewhere, includes intrepid travellers from Tonga, Fiji and Western Samoa. They qualify on residential grounds.

The most famous addition to the Japanese ranks is the Australian, Ian Williams. He played 16 times on the right wing for his country between 1987 and 1990. In other respects, too, visitors are adding to the sum of rugby knowledge in Japan. Joe Stanley and Kevin Schuler, the former All Blacks, are coaching there.

Japan can match Twickenham in boasting a 60,000-capacity crowd for its cup final. Kobe Steel and Toshiba, drawing that number last season, but the high-profile promotion of football represents serious competition for the attention for the public.

If the other recruits will add height and bulk to the forwards, Williams, who can be counted as one of the fastest players in his position, will add further speed to a team whose overall strategy will rely on pace. Alan Davies, the Wales coach, is expecting as much and it is Wales's reaction to this as much as their opponents' inventiveness which will be of primary

interest tonight. In 1983, Japan returned home with a 50 per cent record, having won two, lost two and drawn one. They lost to Wales 29-24.

Wales A, too, include two players who are less than true-blue. Copey has already been blooded, and tonight sees the initiation of Hemi Taylor, the New Zealander. He has been resident in Wales for the past six years, the minimum qualifying period laid down by the Welsh Rugby Union.

Davies has had to make two changes from his original selection because Mike Hall and Ian Jones have had to withdraw. Hall is replaced at centre by Roger Bidgood and Matthew Beck, of Pontypridd, comes in at full back. Adrian Davies assumes the captaincy.

Wales A: M Back (Pontypridd), S Hill (Cardiff), R Bidgood (Newport), N Davies (Llanelli), N Walker (Cardiff), A Davies (Cardiff), J Howley (Bridgend), R Evans (Llanelli), S Jenkins (Swansea), H Williams-Jones (Llanelli), H Taylor (Cardiff), A Conney (Llanelli), P Arnold (Swansea), L Jones (Llanelli), S Guinness (Llanelli).

JAPANESE XV: Matsuo; 1. Williams, 2. Copey, 3. Fawcett, 4. Toshida, 5. Matsuo, 6. Negastori, 7. Ota, 8. Kanda (captain), 9. Nakamura, 10. Kakei, 11. Sakuragi, 12. Nishimura, 13. Laro, 14. Nakamura, 15. Laro.

Referee: O Matthews (RFU)

League emerges from union shadow to find bright future

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE performances of New Zealand's rugby league touring party, who open their 11-match programme against Wales in Swansea on Sunday, will be analysed at home as meticulously as those of their rugby union counterparts when they arrive next month. Perhaps more so.

Nowhere has the persuasive power of television had a more pronounced influence than on New Zealand and its rugby-loving public. Rather than the union men of their homeland, heroes these days are more likely to be found among their legions of league players in Sydney.

When Wayne Shelford, the former All Blacks captain and rugby union totem of the country, admits his offspring are more interested in rugby league, the scale of the conversion becomes apparent.

Just as the All Blacks' aura of invincibility has shrunk in recent years, so rugby league has shaken off its image as an inferior by-product, mainly due to the screening of games from the intensely competitive Australian Winfield Cup. In turn, television figures for club rugby union have dipped alarmingly.

From being the world's main exporter of rugby league talent, the game in New Zealand is looking to exploit its sizable and enthusiastic new home market. The biggest, single change is the introduction of the Auckland Warriors into the Sydney competition in 1995.

New Zealand's main domestic competition, ignored before, will relaunch next February as a 12-club league. This has already generated income of NZ\$4 million (£1.5 million), with weekly television coverage, which should

provide fortune and fame enough to stem the flow of players to Australia and England.

Not only is this upsurge in activity rustling fern leaves within the New Zealand Rugby Union, but league in Britain sees itself being left behind again after playing "catch up with Australia" for the past decade. Dean Bell, Wigan's influential New Zealand captain, is one of those joining the Warriors at the end of this season.

For the three internationals with Great Britain, New Zealand will lean heavily on playing resources here. The future, in the shape of the touring junior New Zealand,

seven of whom have been snapped up by the Warriors, appears formidable. The best of Britain's young amateurs were left breathless and bemused by a 50-4 defeat at Sheffield on Monday.

The 26-man New Zealand party is an intriguing mix of young, untired talent and vast experience honed in Australia. Supplemented by their rich English-based resources, Gary Freeman, the scrum-half, who is poised to become his country's most-capped player, will captain a side high on confidence.

TOUR FIXTURES: Oct 3: v Wales (Swansea); 10: Scotland (Glasgow); 17: Wales (Cardiff); 24: Great Britain (Wembley); 31: St Helens (St Helens); 7 Nov: Great Britain (Wembley); 14 Nov: v Wales; 21 Nov: v Great Britain (Leeds).

Plain sailing for Aberdeen

OF THE Scottish sides involved in Europe, Aberdeen should have the fewest difficulties. They are 3-0 ahead of Valur, of Iceland, in the Cup Winners' Cup and their midfield organiser, Jim Beattie, is likely to be fit to return for tonight's second leg at Piltodrie.

Aberdeen, who climbed to the top of the premier division last Saturday, are unlikely to risk the striker, Scott Booth, as they try to add to their six goals scored in their last two home games.

The European Cup is in danger of losing one of its more glamorous teams tonight, for Barcelona have to overcome a 3-1 deficit against Dynamo Kiev in Spain to avoid early elimination for the second successive season. However, the Spanish champions appear to have regained their usually elegant and convincing stride at the right time. Their 4-1 weekend victory over Real Zaragoza has lifted morale after two successive 0-0 draws. "The win has picked us all up and is a very important

boost," their coach, Johan Cruyff, said.

Barcelona were knocked out of the European Cup in the second round last year when they were surprisingly beaten 3-2 at home by CSKA Moscow.

Steaua Bucharest, also former champions, are under threat of first-round elimination after a 2-1 home defeat by Croatia Zagreb in the first leg two weeks ago, while Monaco are another of the top-seeded sides who may struggle to make an appearance in the second-round draw.

Monaco, who were made the gift of an entry into the competition by the expulsion of the disgraced Marseilles, are defending a 1-0 lead against AEK Athens in Greece.

AEK, who beat PSV Eindhoven at home in the second round last season before losing away, have proved admirable competitors in recent seasons. They are unbeaten in the league this season and have conceded one goal in their six matches.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

SOUPER

(b) In Ireland, a Protestant dergymao seeking to make proselytes by means of dispensing soup in charity, from *soup* as substantive or verb *Catholic News*, 1890: "Our readers are no doubt aware of the usual falsehoods employed by Soupers for this purpose."

SYZYGY

(b) In astronomy, originally a conjunction, now extended to include both conjunction and opposition of two heavenly bodies, or either of the points at which these take place, especially in the case of the moon with the sun (new and full moon), from the Greek *syn* with + *zygnumai* to yoke.

HAYBOTE

(c) Wood or thorns for the repair of fences; the right of the tenant or commoner to take such material from the landlord's estate, or the common. By legal writers also called *hedgebote*. From *hay* + *bote*.

JAPHETIC

(c) Of or belonging to, descended from or supposed to be descended from Japheth, one of the sons of Noah; sometimes applied to the Indo-European family. The Japhetic nations, which people the North of Asia and all Europe. Japhetic languages.

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Bruno on mission to win applause from critics and cynics

Pantomime hero seeking punch-line

Srikumar Sen on the boxer who wants to prove he is not a round peg in a square ring

Frank Bruno may be the most successful boxer out of the ring, but inside it he has yet to find acclaim. He has fame, fortune and the affection of his country, but despite having distinction of challenging for the world title twice and, at 32, being a veteran of 11 years' campaigning, he has not found recognition where it really matters and where he most wants it, in the boxing world.

Most serious experts do not even regard Bruno as a true contender, seeing him as a manufactured boxer manoeuvred to his two big challenges by clever match-making. In their eyes, he has been, in world terms, no more than a dub boxer.

The tenth-round defeat by James "Bonecrusher" Smith, who was then a novice in 1984, confirmed this view. A victory over Gerrie Coetzee, of South Africa, lifted Bruno to No 1 position in the rankings, but it did not help his standing in the eyes of the experts. Coetzee was well past his best and no test for a contender.

A belting in 11 rounds four months later by an over-weight Tim Witherspoon underlined the belief that smart match-making was still Bruno's best friend. Wins over specially picked opponents such as James Tillis, Chuck Gardner, Reggie Gross and Joe Bugner, and the defeat by Tysoo in five rounds, brought him no nearer recognition as a true contender.

He remained in American eyes as the archetypal British horizontal champion. To them Bruno and world heavyweight champion was a contradiction in terms. Even if he wins the world title by defeating Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, in Cardiff on Saturday, there would still be those who would put Bruno's success down to deficiencies in Lewis.

Cynics might see this world title bout at Cardiff Arms Park in the early hours of Saturday morning more as a money-making exercise for both Lewis, who will receive £4 million, and Bruno, who will get £1 million, than a genuine match, but there can be little doubt that the bout means more to Bruno than simply the cash.

If he was concerned about a showing in the ring he would not be upset by newspaper articles tipping Lewis and would have taken the money and run and thumbed his nose at journalists. He said yesterday: "Journalists should find out the difference between a hook and a fishhook. They don't realise when I fought Tyson and Witherspoon, they were at their peak. Lennox Lewis could not have lived with them."

I believe Bruno today is a



Bruno is down and out at the end of his world title bout with Tim Witherspoon in 1986

much better boxer than the one that was sent into retirement by Mike Tyson in 1989 for three years. Regardless of how he fares against Lewis, whether he is knocked out in the first round or the fifth, as most people are predicting, the Bruno that steps into the ring against Lewis could be the best Bruno we have seen.

Since he moved away from Terry Lawless, his old manager and father figure, in 1991 and started managing his own affairs, Bruno has grown up and become more relaxed and worldly. Time and pantomime and song and dance routines, simple though they were on the boards, and thoughtful coaching by his

trainer George Francis, have helped to loosen up his robotic style.

No longer satisfied with being the FFT (Hybrid Tea) of heavyweights, stiff, body-beautiful and aggressive, much loved by everybody but not always favoured by the discerning, he has trained assiduously for eight weeks at a school in Ongar not far from his home with an

aerobics expert, Keith Morito, and now Francis says things are looking much better in the garden. Bruno has sparred over 12 rounds, which have given him plenty of chance to put into practice new moves he has learnt as a result of work with Morito. "Frank is probably at his best

ever, because Keith has been with us all the time since we started training," Francis said. "Frank, as you know, is a big, muscly guy and sometimes the muscles can work against you, but working with Keith has been a bonus. There is a great difference in his flexibility and speed."

On Monday, at his first training appearance in Wales, Bruno went through his training routine, including aerobics with Morito at a small leisure centre at Splott and delighted his Cardiff fans. For many it was their first view of the big man. They clapped wildly when he capered round the ring or when he made the peanut ball crackle.

He did not spar, but his work with Francis on the pads showed accuracy and precision, and most surprisingly, he also revealed some lateral movement, even managing to go backwards while still keeping his eye on the incoming trainer. Once or twice he got up on his toes and skipped about All-fashian.

Measured by Bruno standards it was the liveliest I have seen him. It is still a matter of putting gym work into practice under ring pressure, but there is a chance that he could have picked up a little bit of speed that could make all the difference when it comes to landing the big punch.

Complete S Africa team at Victoria 'unlikely'

SOUTH African athletes may compete in next year's Commonwealth Games, although it is unlikely there will be a complete South African team, a senior games official said yesterday.

David Dixon, secretary of the Commonwealth Games Federation, said he had been informed by the Commonwealth Secretariat that South Africa could be readmitted to the Commonwealth as early as next May.

While this would be a prerequisite for South Africa's re-integration into the Commonwealth Games, to be held in Victoria, Canada, next August, it will be too late for South Africa to field a full team.

Under Commonwealth Games rules, countries must give six months' notice of their plans to participate in the games. The deadline for an application to field a full South African team is February 18.

"The likelihood is that South Africa will have general elections in April and will rejoin the Commonwealth in May," Dixon said. If that happened, he added, organisers of the Games would ensure "a South African presence". Dixon suggested some of the leading South African athletes would be able to compete in a handful of events.

Anticipating South African re-entry into the Commonwealth Games Federation had been "in close touch" with South Africa's sporting authorities.

"If South Africa has re-entered the Commonwealth in time, there will be a South African presence," Dixon said. "It's only a question of how big a team."

Pakistan is the only country to have left and rejoined the Commonwealth. The newest team in the Commonwealth Games will be Namibia, which, as South West Africa, was until recently administered by South Africa.

Sixty-six nations are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation, which includes present and former British colonies. The United Kingdom has four members — England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — with Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man qualifying as member nations in their own right.

Malaysia, hosts for the 1998 Commonwealth Games, may have a second success in their drive for more team sports in the Games.

Clearance has already been given to include netball at Kuala Lumpur and federation delegates are expected to give approval for the addition of a second new team sport in 1998 when they meet in Canada this week.

Rugby union sevens and limited-overs cricket are thought to be the main contenders with hockey, volleyball, basketball and handball all possibilities for the 2002 Games, the venue for which has yet to be chosen.

Top seed Courier starts in style

JIM Courier, the world No 2, from the United States, went for an early kill against Albert Chang, from Canada, to move into the second round of the Malaysian Open tennis tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Courier, the No 1 seed, broke Chang, ranked No 240 in the world, at the start of each set to win 6-4, 6-4 in 90 minutes.

Courier, 23, mixed powerful baseline shots and excellent returns to power past Chang, 22, who hit some big services but failed to follow them up. "Chang had a good backhand and a good serve," Courier said. "I chose a baseline game not because it was a strategy but because it worked against him."

Courier now meets Jacco Eltingh, of Holland. Brad Gilbert, of the United States, the No 5 seed, was beaten 6-1, 7-5 by Jamie Yzaga, of Peru, and Jason Stoltenberg, from Australia, the No 8 seed, was forced to retire when a set and 2-0 down to Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden. Stoltenberg slipped and fell in the first set and injured his wrist. Jeremy Bates, of Britain, beat Lars Wahlgren, of Sweden, 6-1, 6-4.

Bout postponed

BOXING: The double world title bill at King's Hall, Belfast, has been put back two weeks from October 16 to October 30 because of television coverage, according to Frank Warren, the promoter. Jeff Harding, of Australia, is due to defend his World Boxing Council light-heavyweight title against Crawford Ashley, of Leeds, and Eamonn Loughran, of Ireland, will be attempting to deprive the Dane, Gert Bo Jacobsen, of the World Boxing Organisation welterweight championship. Warren yesterday denied claims that Harding had been withdrawn from the bout because, according to the Australian's trainer, Manny Hinton, financial guarantees were not being met.

Double for Sydney

PARALYMPICS: Sydney, the city chosen to host the 2000 Olympic Games, will stage the Paralympics for disabled athletes in the same year, the Australian Paralympic Federation said yesterday. The federation's media director, Paul Griffiths, said: "It doesn't naturally happen that the city which wins the bid automatically gets the Paralympics, although it has worked out that way in the last couple of Olympics." The International Paralympic Committee said Sydney had won the Games in preference to Berlin, Peking and Manchester, three of the cities that made unsuccessful bids for the Olympic Games.

Pakistan's safety fears

CRICKET: Pakistan may decide to pull out of November's six-nation international tournament in India, to celebrate the centenary of the Bengal Cricket Association, unless the safety of the players is guaranteed, following threats from Hindu militants. "It will be very difficult to send any team unless we are absolutely sure of the safety of our players and that the matches will proceed according to the schedule," Nasim Hasan Shah, chairman of the Pakistan board, said yesterday.

Warwickshire have signed Richard Davis, 27, Kent's left-arm spinner, to replace Paul Booth, who has been released.

Strong Barbarian party

RUGBY UNION: The South African Barbarians have selected a powerful 28-man squad for their eight-match tour of Great Britain, which starts at Gloucester on October 19. Johan Barnard, the Namibia flanker, and Eben Meyer, the Namibia winger, are included, along with the Zimbabwe prop, Adrian Garvey, Heinrich Rodgers, Wahl Bartman, Harry Roberts, Peter Hendricks and Deon Oosthuysen, who have all played for South Africa, and add skill to the squad. (Times, October 19; Gloucester, October 21; Leicester, October 23; Newport, October 25; Northampton, October 26; Ulster, November 1; Bristol, November 3; Cornwall, November 6; Bath, November 7.)

Mountjoy pulls out

SNOOKER: Doug Mountjoy, eight-time United Kingdom champion, who underwent surgery to remove his cancerous left leg in May, has been forced to withdraw from the Dubai Duty Free Classic, which begins on Friday because of a chest infection. Mountjoy, aged 51, has been told the infection is unrelated to his previous problems. Martin Clark receives a walkover into the last 16.



FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Atlanta 17, Tampa Bay 14.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 3, Montreal 1.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York 9, Baltimore 1.

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: First round, second leg: Valencia 1, Hala 0.

UEFA CUP: First round, second leg: Schalke 04 1, Borussia Dortmund 0.

EUROPEAN CUP: First round, second leg: Schalke 04 1, Borussia Dortmund 0.

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ICE HOCKEY

BEISLEY: Berkshire long range championship: Bedford 1, Slough 0.

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SPEEDWAY

BRITISH LEAGUE: First division, Wolverhampton 2, Chelmsford 1.

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TENNIS

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Game takes giant steps forward under leadership of global ambassador

Cowdrey the gentle amateur leaves ICC in good health

International cricket has been a volatile game these past four years, and there have been times when its administration seemed miscast in the hands of an urbane amateur. It is, then, greatly to the credit of Sir Colin Cowdrey that when he stands down tomorrow as chairman of the International Cricket Council, the post need never be so rigorous again.

Cowdrey did not want for courage in his playing career. Nobody who answered England's call one last time at the age of 42 and opened the innings in Perth against Lillee and Thomson, can be criticised on that score. But in this latest evolutionary period, he needed to align that courage with diplomacy, tenacity and patience. That the mixture was about right can be gauged by results.

He has never been the type to bang the table in order to make a point. Bristling dogma is not a Cowdrey trait — nor, some would say, is decisiveness. If this led to occasional dissatisfaction over the handling of the most basic part of his job — chairing the annual meeting — it was more than compensated by his broader, less obvious input as a global ambassador for the good and progressive things in cricket.

Under his gently persuasive style of leadership, world cricket has taken several giant steps forward, even if, as he would admit, a few more have gone sideways. Among the big gains are that South Africa are back, a thorny path cleared to the point where the entire cricket community has welcomed them; the political intrigues that threatened to divide and strangle the game have been suppressed, if not banished; and commercial



Alan Lee reviews an era in which government of world cricket called for a mix of courage and tenacity

revenue, desperately needed by the impecunious majority, is now at last being identified. Most important of all, the archaic days when this vast sporting business was governed by an annual talking-shop under the auspices of a private club are gone for ever. The ICC has cast off the mothering umbrella of MCC and set up its own professional administration, no less laudable for being so long

'There was nothing amateurish about the efficiency with which he pulled together the game's loose ends'

overdue. This is Cowdrey's finest legacy and he knows it. Sitting, this week, at his Sussex home, reflecting upon four years he considers "enjoyable and hugely educational", he said: "This has been the most important part of my brief and I am so rewarded to feel that the new administration is in place before I hand over. I am also proud of the fact that there are no hard feelings between MCC and the ICC over the breakaway. Michael Melluish did a lot of valuable spadework in his year as president of MCC and I think the outcome of a separate office at Lord's could not be bettered."

Clyde Walcott takes the

chair this week, his role no less distinguished but surely less time-consuming. Cowdrey's commitment, though honorary, involved seven days a week and unsocial hours. "The next chairman will have a different job," he said. "David Richards [the first chief executive of the ICC] is in place at Lord's now, doing professionally what I was doing in an amateur way."

This implies only that he was not paid for it. There was nothing amateurish about the efficiency with which Cowdrey set about pulling together the reluctant loose ends of the game, nor the zeal with which he travelled the world in pursuit of answers to what he calls the "running sores" of cricket. Some, however, still fester, mostly concerning the modern relationships between captains and umpires.

When Cowdrey was put forward as the first long-term chairman of the ICC, distinct from the presidency of MCC, his proposer, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, gave him what he refers to as his "exam paper". In locating the problems to be addressed, Lord Bramall had divided the brief into political and cricketing matters. He suggested that Cowdrey's first priority should be to improve flagging standards of player behaviour by implementing a system of independent umpires.

Four years on, this remains an elusive objective, although a compromise has been reached with the appointment

of one independent umpire in each Test match. Cowdrey has also overseen, with the legal assistance of Lord Griffiths, formerly the MCC president, the introduction of a code of conduct and of independent match referees. Still, the problems persist.

In 1989 Cowdrey arrived with a determination to act on the predominance of short-pitched bowling and slow over-rates allied to the advance of a soaring aggression among players. He called it "poor cricket, poor entertainment, not much fun for the players and making life difficult for the umpires. The violent nature of the attack in

the field, supported by sledging, made for a most unattractive game to watch and to play."

Here is a war he has not won on any front. Bouncers are delivered with as much venom and intent as ever, and the experimental restriction to one per batsman per over has been a flop. Sledging rages unabated, especially when the Australians are involved, and, as much as anything, Cowdrey is tremendously concerned about the players' apparent ambivalence to this violent atmosphere.

"Some take what they consider a macho attitude to it, which I believe to be ignorant

about the skills of the game," he said. "I don't know if I would be so keen to play Test cricket these days if I thought that I was no more than a physical and verbal target."

Cowdrey believes Test captains have to be more accountable for the actions of their players. He hopes they can be brought together, perhaps in England next summer, for a discussion with the new ICC cricket committee, another admirable innovation during his tenure, guaranteeing more discourse on the game's problems than the annual meeting could ever achieve.

More specifically, the bouncer law is being red-

fined, initially through direction from the umpires who have to enforce it, and that woefully and abused law of cricket regarding the captains' responsibility to the "spirit of the game" is to be clarified.

The MCC cricket committee, which Cowdrey chairs, is likely to publish an amendment next month. "It is important that we define what is meant by the spirit of the game," Cowdrey said, citing on one side the rehearsed, concerted appealing that blights so much cricket and, on the other, the impeccable conduct under pressure of the Ryder Cup golfers' last weekend.

It is clear that though Cowdrey may be vacating the chair, his unaccomplished missions still drive him. He dreams of a Test match competition on similar lines to the limited-overs World Cup, and of his greatest ambition — once again to see a highly competitive Test match with no helmets.

Meanwhile, he continues to be active on any number of cricketing committees and, if the pace of cricket life ever relents, he can always turn to racing, for his wife, Lady Herries, trains a successful string of 24. "It really is time I got to know the horses' names," he said with a sigh.



Sir Colin Cowdrey looks back with affection on four years of hard, devoted and relentless work in the service of world cricket

Tour de France cavalcade will bring South grinding to halt

By PETER BRYAN

SOUTHERN England will be *en fête* in July next year when the Tour de France arrives to mark the opening of the Channel tunnel and commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day. Kent, East and West Sussex, and Hampshire can expect the world's largest public sporting spectacle to draw an estimated 750,000 spectators to the road side.

The full 1994 Tour route of 2,500 miles will not be revealed until October 20 at a showbusiness-style presentation in Paris, but the race will start in Lille on July 2 and maintain the traditional finish on the Champs-Élysées in Paris on July 24. Yesterday, the dates of the British section and a detailed route of the two stages were announced.

The opening race will start from Dover Castle on July 6 after nearly 200 riders representing 20 teams arrive in Britain via the Channel tunnel. The 128-mile race to Canterbury, Ashford, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough, and Ditchling Beacon, the last a vantage point to see the riders in slower motion as they tackle the long ascent.

The second day is a 113-mile clockwise loop starting and finishing in Portsmouth, which embraces Winchester, Basingstoke, Alton, Petersfield, the climb of Harting Down, and Havant. Riders later return to France by air while the 1,500 support vehicles travel by ferry.



Millar: stage winner



LeMond: in Gan team

The race route, as in France, will be closed to all traffic for 24 hours before the riders and support cavalcade appear. Police and volunteer helpers will man more than 1,000 intersections along the way.

Alan Rushton, managing director of Sport for Television, the British company co-ordinating the organisation here, said: "Traffic control is a mammoth task in the Tour, which will require all roads to be closed."

A police escort of 40 motorcycles will operate ahead of, alongside, and behind the riders. Supplementing them will be a similar number of the French Republican Guard — with their guns — to assist with traffic control.

As in France, the organisers are making special requests to householders during the next nine months that no vehicles are parked

along the route on race day to ensure the safety of the riders. The result could be serious — if temporary — traffic congestion in the South-East.

The tour, once contested by national teams, is now only open to trade squads. British riders will be thin on the ground, the two most notable among the field being Sean Yates, whose family home is in Sussex, and who has delayed his retirement in order to ride over home roads, and Robert Millar, from Scotland. Both have won stages on the Tour.

Britain's professional of one month, Christopher Boardman, the Olympic pursuit champion and world one-hour record-holder, who rides for the French Gan team, is a possible third. Boardman could make his tour debut because of his outstanding ability in time trials, already evident from

his opening three events on the Continent, where he has had two wins and a second place.

If he is selected for the Tour, he will line up alongside the triple winner, Greg LeMond, of the United States.

Richard Prince, the British champion, broke the national record for the 3,000-metre pursuit in the world junior championships in Perth, Australia yesterday, recording a time of 3min 29.54sec that took 2.1sec off the record.

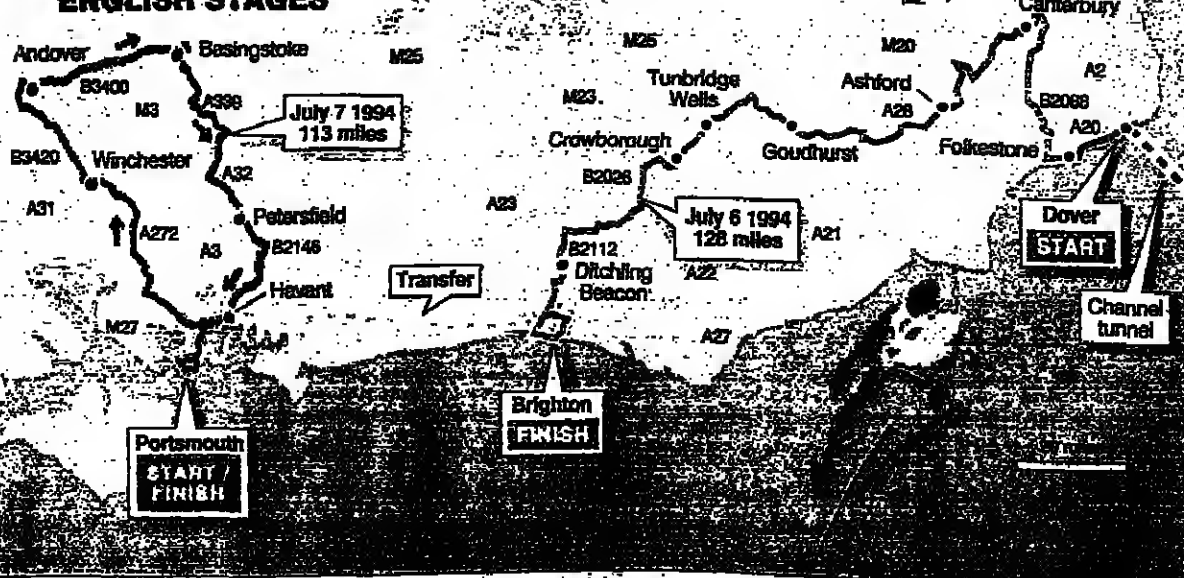
Prince did not improve his time in the next round and finished eleventh in a high-standard field. Andrew Mummery, from Chippenham, was eighteenth in 3min 34.29sec. He is still eligible for next year's world junior championship in Ecuador.

The bronze medal was taken by Thorsten Rind, from Germany, in 3min 27.73sec and the gold and silver medals will be decided in the final tonight between Bradley McGee, from Australia, and Cristian Bianchini, from Italy.

Michael Schauer, from Germany, won the gold medal in the 1,000-metre time trial in 1min 59.44sec, with Alberto Benito Guerrero, from Spain, taking silver in 1min 1.65sec.

Sebastian Morelon, from France, son of the past world champion, Daniel Morelon, now national coach, took the bronze medal in 1min 7.86sec. Britain was not represented.

TOUR DE FRANCE 1994: ENGLISH STAGES



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SECTION 2
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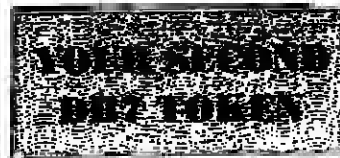
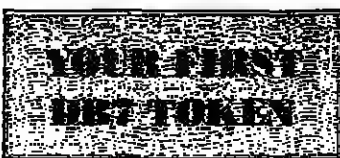
THE EXCITING NEW MOTORING NEWSPAPER.

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

- The full British road test of the TVR Griffith 500.
- Estate cars group test featuring Ford's new Mondeo.

- Full test of the new Mercedes-Benz E 200 saloon.
- A chance to win a new Aston Martin DB7 in our great competition.

To enter our DB7 competition, you collect a total of 5 tokens. The tokens — along with some simple questions — appear in Carweek. Here's two tokens to start you off.



FIND IT ON THE BOTTOM SHELF IN YOUR NEWSAGENT.

47

Headfirst! Can cartoon adventures (2455267) **6.45**

Worrier Animated canine capes (4831072)

The Big Breakfast (73078)

You Bet Your Life! American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (911) (523438)

Seductions (2628991) **9.45** Tais, 'Write and Read' (2641542), **10.02 Science** Start Here! (5063524), **10.18 Understanding Nonhuman Ireland** (5053949) **10.40 The Technology Programme** (3950262) **10.55 Film and Video Show** (523410), **11.07 Time for Maths** (4559504) **11.18 The World** (4573746) **11.30 Star A-Tai-Tai** (8201271) **11.45 Junior Technology** (2606726)

Profiles of Nature A documentary look at the world through the rugged coast of Patagonia (65594)

Sesame Street Entertaining early learning series. The guest is Bill Wurtz (915558) **1.30 The Herbs** Animated fun. Followed by **Footie** Adventures of a dog and his friends (6877716)

America's Funniest Home Videos Two off-beat documentaries by **TWN Peaks** creators David Lynch and Mark Frost. **Diamonds Are Forever** looks at Major League baseball and bids farewell to Chicago Cubs pitcher **Ron Cey**. **The Future That Never Was** looks at the future prediction industry (in 68865826)

Circuit 4 Racing From Newmarket Brough Stock introduces live coverage of the 2.35 **Hunter Point Stakes**, 3.40 **Epsom Derby**, 4.00 **Goodwood Cup**, 4.30 **Salisbury Stakes**, 4.45 **Cheshamville Stud** Chevalier, Park Stakes) and the 4.10 **EBF Fillis Nursery Handicap** (19594962)


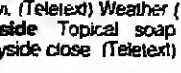
Countdown Richard Wiseman with another round of the brain and nerves game, assisted by Martin Jarvis with the dictionary (Frilettey) (51610)

The Oprah Winfrey Show With the help of singer John Secada and actor Joe Lando, **Oprah Winfrey** finds to find out what men find attractive in other women (Tues) (5900255)

Pencil Dance Abstract animation set to the music of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* (666875)

The Crystal Maze Another set of intrepid

zones of Richard D. Irwin (16) (918131)
 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zerah
 Badawi, (Teletext) Weather (1320)
 Brookside Topical soap set in a suburban
 Merseyside close (Teletext) (9) (1287)



Thaw and Whately are Down Under (8.30pm)

Inspector Morse: Promised Land. In the last of five repeats the opera and real life loving detective has a culture shock when he and Sgt Lewis are sent to Australia to track down a former supergrass, starring John Thaw and Kevin Whately. (Teletext) 90126184

Mr Don and Mr George. Last in the off-beat comedy series starring Jack Docherty and Moray Hunter. (Teletext) (st 763417)

A Law, American courtroom drama series. (Teletext) (343813)

In The Heck With Hollywood. Humorous documentary about three first-time directors, Ted Lightenthal, Jennifer Fox and Gerry Cock, trying to make their own films and sell them without having to go through the Hollywood system (547769). Ends

DISCOVERY

4.00PM Coral Reef (8399436) 4.30 Wild South Queensland (8394382) 5.00 High Five (9543828) 5.30 Exotic Reservations (8345900) 6.00 Beyond 2000 (8336393) 6.30 Anne Marie's Favorites (8317704) 7.00 Bridgebase (8363726) 7.30 Wild South (8393459) 8.00 These Wild South Moments (8370488) 8.30 Shybound (658119) 9.00 Magic of Medicine (2100768) 10.00 Man on the Firm (8393769) 10.30 The Big Game (8393769) (5172367) 11.30-12.00 Earthline (1206961)

BRAVO

12.00 Firm Night With Our Friend (14652, 194) 12.30 The Golem is accused of murdering her husband, Michael Gough (87166417) 1.05pm Firm Now, Voyager (8393769) 1.30pm The Big Game (8393769) 2.00pm Firm Night With Our Friend named after: Paul Hebert (83517982) 3.00 Bonanza (6160859) 4.00 The New Hollywoods (8368662) 4.30 I Say (1331769) 5.00 The Big Game (8393769) Mr Lucky (8336639) 6.30 The Bill Cosby Show (8336639) 7.00 The Big Game (8393769)

Boat Champions
Racing Today
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UK LIVING

7.00am Jayne and Friends (#459694) 8.00
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Club (1520087) 9.30 Hot Topics (7154164)
10.00 The Full Treatment #662555# 10.30
Living Extra (1519981) 11.00 The Home

(87233) 1.00pm
3.00 Equestrian
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Norwich can rise above the gloom

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A WET but fascinating Wednesday in Europe offers the best possible distraction to mounting television allegations into corruption within the English game and galloping FA disciplinary charges following broken cheek-bones and broken rules on the field.

The matches tonight involving British clubs are on two dimensions: there is the throbbing power and expectancy of clubs like Manchester United, Glasgow Rangers, Arsenal and Aston Villa; and the first footing abroad of Norwich City.

Norwich, a stable and well-managed middle-range club, represent the values that British football would like to see successful. They play a game that is far removed from the mania of high-ball, command-style combat, and they take a three-goal cushion to Vitesse Arnhem.

The "bigger" guns have varying jobs to complete. Manchester United should rain in goals against Kispes-Honved, now a shadow of other days. Despite having enterprising and youthful players, Honved ought not to have been allowed to pull back to only 3-2 down after the home leg in Budapest.

Glasgow Rangers, the other British representative in the Champions Cup, also lead 3-2 but, taking such a vulnerable advantage to Levski Sofia, will require more of the tenacity and resolve which pulled Rangers through last season against the likes of Marseilles.

Arsenal, in the Cup Winners' Cup, will surely douse the embers of hope of OB Odense, whom they lead 2-1. And, in the Midlands, potentially the most taut contest in this country tonight sees Aston Villa start goalless after their visit to Slovan Bratislava, of Slovakia.

Bratislava lost their crown jewel when Peter Dubovsky was sold for £2.5 million to Real Madrid. Even so, Villa will have to recapture more of the flow of last season if they are to punish Bratislava on the flanks, and perhaps some resilience to prevent the lively

left back, Vladimir Kinder, from penetrating their own defence.

The latest hero of Norwich, Efan Ekoku, was born a Mancunian, bred on the football of Liverpool, and has now discovered his Nigerian roots. He was scarcely known in this country a year ago, came up through non-league football as a late developer and now, at 26, has cultivated a right-foot volley as sharp as a viper's tongue.

Ekoku has been told that if he performs tonight remotely as well as he did in scoring four times at Everton on Saturday, he will get the offer to join the Nigerian national team, which is rather closer to the 1994 World Cup finals than England.

Norwich, however, is anything but a one-man club, their virtues coming from the boardroom down where their chairman, Robert Chase, is also head of the Norfolk Police Authority.

They financed their all-seater stadium by grooming and selling young stars, and now bring to Europe football played on the ground, football played with momentum and a hint of joy.

A three-goal lead ought to suffice, of course, unless Norwich have one of their foolish those games when their defence can fall apart, as it did at Blackburn to the tune of seven goals last season.

Norwich will certainly relish their mission today more than Barcelona, one of the super-powers of Europe. Having won the ultimate prize two years ago, Barcelona fell surprisingly to CSKA Moscow last autumn, and are on the brink of elimination now against Dynamo Kiev.

The Ukraine champions, despite selling a full team of quality players, are in debt. If they manage to protect a 3-1 lead in the Nou Camp, it will be a case of Barcelona lamenting the \$4 million spent on the Brazilian striker, Romario. A case of Romario, Romario, wherefore art thou?

More football, page 43



Bruno works up a rhythm and a sweat in training for his title bout with Lewis in Cardiff on Saturday

Lewis dismisses rumours of injury

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis yesterday dispelled reports that he was having trouble with his right hand and that it might not be up to the job of dealing with Frank Bruno's challenge when they meet for the title in the early hours of Saturday morning at Cardiff Arms Park.

Lewis dismissed the rumours emanating from the Bruno camp. The World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, who damaged his hand earlier this year when training for Tony Tucker and had an operation after successfully defending his title, said he had been "punching guys in the head" for five weeks and had had no adverse reaction.

Last Saturday he had final proof that he would not be troubled when he had a real set-to for four rounds with his chief sparring partner, Sherman Griffiths. This was not known to the Bruno camp because, after doing his stint for the fans

in the afternoon, Lewis made a secret visit at midnight to the gym in Spain, not far from his hotel in the centre of Cardiff. Neither Lewis, nor his hand, nor Griffiths suffered any injury.

The champion further discounted the claim by George Francis, Bruno's trainer, that Bruno would be exploiting three weaknesses Francis had noticed in Lewis's boxing and bring an early end to the contest.

"My style switches with every fight," Lewis said. "So I've yet to see a guy who can out-do me."

He said that he would be taking advantage of Bruno's greatest weakness: his chin and a conditioned fear of a big fight brought about by two severe defeats by the world champions, Tim Witherspoon and Mike Tyson.

"Every time he goes for the big fight he can never really cross that barrier," Lewis

said. Lewis believes Bruno can be knocked out with one punch even though no one, not even Tyson, has managed that feat.

"The fact that nobody's knocked him out with one punch gives me something to go for," Lewis said. "It's my aim to knock him out whether it's with one punch or two punches."

The champion added that if he had to go the distance to win, it would not reflect badly on him. "The main thing for me is to win," Lewis said. "People will see me as a great boxer for boxing 12 rounds and looking super."

Lewis admitted that Bruno, despite being dismissed by the pundits, was a dangerous opponent. "He has nothing to lose and definitely has a puncher's chance," Lewis said.

Bruno's quest, page 44

FA charges Ruddock



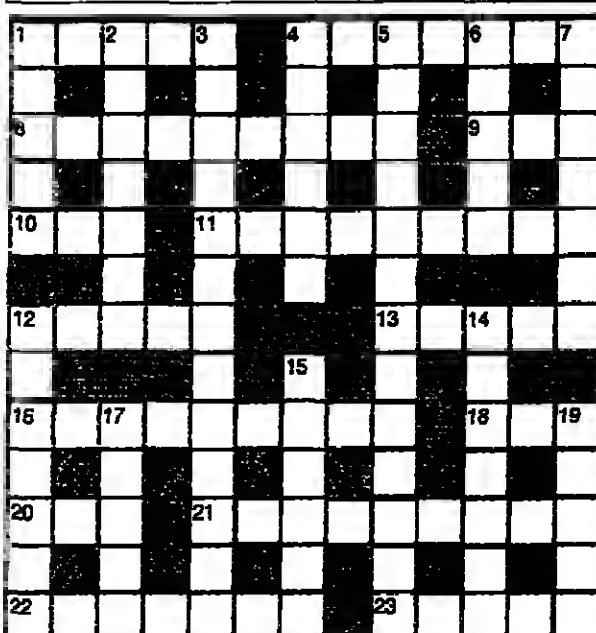
Ruddock: case to answer

NEIL Ruddock, left, the Liverpool defender, has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association for his part in a brawl during the FA Cup Premier League match against Blackburn Rovers at Anfield on September 12.

The FA disciplinary committee acted yesterday after watching a video of the incident in which Ruddock appeared to aim a blow at Mike Newell, the Blackburn striker. Ruddock, who faces a lengthy ban if the case against him is proved, has 14 days in which to request a personal hearing.

The committee, which was joined by Mike Reed, the match referee, decided not to take any further action over an earlier tackle by Ruddock on Newell.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3212



- ACROSS
- Foot covers (5)
 - In name only (7)
 - Muddle (9)
 - Bigwig (1,1,1)
 - Aural organ (3)
 - Persuaded against (5)
 - Old criminal (5)
 - Suggest (5)
 - Agile on trapeze (9)
 - Morocco barber (3)
 - Take large portion (3)
 - Attacker (9)
 - Altar screen (7)
 - Light anchor (5)
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- Chinese silver ingot (5)
 - In the middle (7)
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SOLUTIONS TO NO 3211

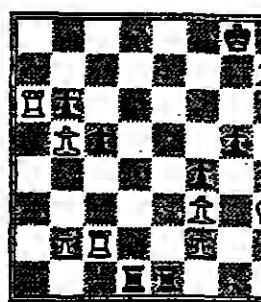
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WINNING MOVE

This position is from the game Alekhine - Bogolyubov, World Championship 1929. There is a well known maxim in chess that the king is a strong piece. This is certainly true in the endgame, where the reduced material means there is little danger of a snap checkmate. How did White make use of his king here? Watch out for part four of the history of the world championship in Saturday's magazine.



Solution on page 43
Championship Chess, page 9

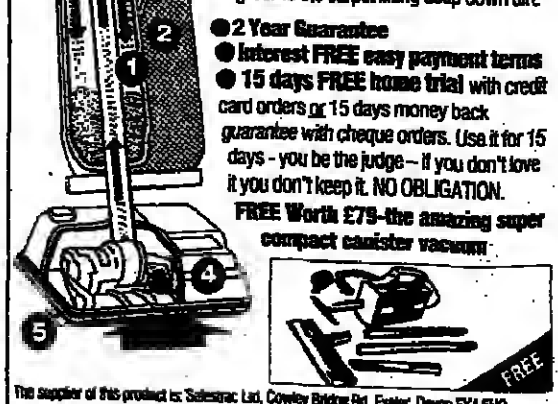
WORD WATCHING

- By Philip Howard
- SOUPER
- A soup ladle
 - A Protestant missionary
 - Scotch mist
- SYZYGY
- A Hungarian gypsy
 - A conjunction
 - Logical necessity
- HAYBOTE
- A hay wain in Dorset
 - Elephants
 - Thorns to repair a fence
- JAPHETIC
- Loss of initial J
 - Pertaining to fleas
 - Grandson of Noah
- Answers on page 43

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